Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-226 *22 November 1991*

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Mercosur Countries Maintain Support for Group

PY2111200491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0204 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Punta del Este, 19 Nov (EFE)—Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell today said that the four Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries maintain their "full political support for Mercosur," despite the suspension of a presidential meeting that was due to be held next month.

During a break in the Rome Club Meeting being held in Punta del Este, Gros Espiell explained that Brazil has expressed full support for Mercosur, despite the fact that the Brazilian president suspended his trip to attend the Mercosur presidential summit, for which reason the summit was canceled.

Gross pointed out that suspending the presidential meeting until further notice does not mean that there is a crisis within Mercosur. He added that "the presidential meeting scheduled for 17 and 18 December was suspended after the Brazilian president canceled his official visit to Uruguay."

He emphasized that "for internal political reasons, Collor also had to cancel an official visit to Chile and his presence at the so-called Group of 15, which is made up of several developing countries."

Gros explained that "on the same dates in December, the Council of Ministers of Mercosur will hold a meeting that will be attended by foreign and economy ministers." Gross added that "this will be the first meeting after the enforcement of the Treaty of Asuncion," noting that "there will be bilateral presidential meetings."

In this regard, he reported that Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez will arrive in Montevideo on 16 December, while Argentine President Carlos Menem will meet with his Uruguayan counterpart Luis Alberto Lacalle on 18 December in Punta del Este.

Gros reported that, because of internal reasons caused by the ongoing process within Congress, the president [Lacalle] will not attend an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) meeting that will be held immediately after the presidential summit of the Group of Rio, which will end on 3 December in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia).

Gros, however, announced that a satellite talk between several presidents of the region and the IDB headquarters in Washington is being prepared, and that the talk will focus on common problems such as the U.S. Americas' Initiative, and the Uruguay round of talks within the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

Latin American Unions Sign Statement in Mexico

PA2211032491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1512 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Nov (AFP)—The Mexico Declaration, signed by the continent's labor unions, states that U.S. President George Bush's Initiative for the Americas "clearly responds to U.S. geoeconomic and geopolitical interests and not to the needs and interests of Latin American integration and development."

The document, which was published by the press on 21 November, adds that "the new U.S. initiative is meant to complete and strengthen the neoliberal project in the region and make Latin American political, social, economic, and cultural unity impossible."

The statement resulted from the meeting held between 11 and 15 November in Mexico City by dozens of labor unions to establish their positions regarding that initiative and the free trade agreements being drafted in the region. The statement was signed by labor unions from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, United States, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela and 14 Latin American federations, including the Latin American Central Organization of Workers (CLAT), which called the meeting.

The unions supported the formation of a Latin American workers front and a directly elected Latin American parliament. They also called for a regional conference to be held next year.

The unions stated that "regional integration must not be limited to economic opportunities, shaped by neoliberal norms, as it has been up to now. In that case there would be an integration of the transnational companies and rampant capitalism." They also demanded that the integration protect the lower income sectors.

The unions added that the free trade agreements currently being discussed "are included in the initiative, which is meant to monopolize captive markets, promote cheap labor, and generalize the assembly plant industry (maquila) (plants that assemble imported parts)." They also said: "On the other hand, we state the need to give absolute privilege to the treaties signed between the countries of the region, as long as they guarantee the participation of the workers and the different social sectors, without exceptions."

The union members said that "the foreign debt has become a silent and well hidden instrument that imposes the recolonization of the debtor countries, as well as a perfect tool to force the debtor countries to yield to the will of the creditors."

In conclusion, they stated their solidarity with the Puerto Rican workers "to exercise their right to self-determination" and demanded "that the commercial blockade against Cuba be ended immediately and Cuba's integration to Latin America be eased."

Cuba

Soviet Troop Withdrawal Talks Become 'Difficult'

PA2211044591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0055 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 22 Nov (NOTIMEX)—It was learned here on 21 November that the talks between Cuba and a Soviet delegation on the withdrawal of Soviet troops have become difficult because Havana is demanding the simultaneous dismantlement of the U.S. Guantanamo base.

Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo has confirmed that the talks are continuing; he did not give specific details.

According to diplomats accredited in Cuba, the negotiations between the two countries have become difficult "because of the Cuban position" of demanding the simultaneous withdrawal of the U.S. troops.

One day after the talks began, Cuban President Fidel Castro said he was against the withdrawal of the Soviet troops as long as the Guantanamo naval base remains on the island. Castro said on 15 November that his government is "absolutely opposed" to the withdrawal of the Soviet brigade while that base, "which exists against our will," remains in Cuba. He reiterated that the troops of the two countries must withdraw at the same time because anything else would "signal to the United States that all of its actions can go unpunished."

The Soviet delegation, which is led by Vyacheslav Ustinov, arrived in Havana on 13 November. Ustinov told the press that President Mikhael Gorbachev has instructed the delegation to organize the Soviet troops' withdrawl from the island.

Alcibiades Hidalgo told NOTIMEX that his country reiterates its initial position that the withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. troops must be simultaneous.

Quadripartite Meeting Begins in Havana

FL2111235091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2255 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The 11th meeting of the joint commission for southwestern Africa has begun behind closed doors at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. Delegations from Angola, Namibia, South Africa, and Cuba, and UN and U.S. diplomats acting as observers, will give continuity to the negotiating process that resulted in the independence of Namibia, a cease-fire, and the withdrawal of Cuban troops. An official note or statement, which would clear up hallway rumors of a possible disintegration of the joint commission now that it has fulfilled its responsibility, is expected later this afternoon.

The joint commission was created in Congo following the signing of the Brazzaville Protocol in 1988, and tasked with the responsibility of supervising the fulfillment of the peace agreements signed in New York by Angola, South Africa, and Cuba.

Observers Arrive

FL2111192491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] With the arrival in Havana of the UN secretary general's representative and the U.S. observers, the list of participants in the 11th quadripartite meeting is now complete. The meeting will begin today in Havana. Cedric Thornberry, Javier Perez de Cuellar's envoy, and the U.S. delegation headed by Under Secretary of State Jeffrey Davidow were met at Jose Marti International Airport by Vice Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi, Ambassador (Heriberto Feraudi), and other officials.

Davidow spoke about the role of the U.S. group in these talks between Angola, Namibia, South Africa, and Cuba with U.S. and Soviet observers. These talks will begin at 1900 GMT in the Convention Center.

[Begin Davidow recording in English] We are observers. We have always been observers on this commission. The members are South Africa, Cuba, Angola, and now Namibia. We have come to discuss the implementation of the New York Accords, which in our view have largely ...[rephrases] have now been totally implemented. [end recording]

For his part, and speaking for the United Nations, Thornberry evaluated compliance with the agreements on southern Africa as positive.

Castro Attends Resolution Signing

FL2211130691 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night attended the signing of the final resolution of the 11th meeting of the Quadripartite Commission for Southwestern Africa. After the leaders of the Angolan, Namibian, Cuban, and South African delegations signed the document, a copy was presented to the heads of the observer delegations from the Soviet Union and the United States that attended the event. Another copy was presented to the special envoy of the UN secretary general.

The members of the commission and the observers praised the hospitality and services provided by Cuba to conduct the meeting.

Haitian Boat Capsizes Off Eastern Cuban Coast

PA2111174491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1721 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 21 Nov (AFP)—The Cuban National Information Agency reported that on 21 November an

overcrowded Haitian boat capsized off Cuba's eastern coast and that 16 people drowned and 119 are still missing.

Approximately 60 passengers survived and are receiving medical attention at a nearby camp. Rescue and relief groups continue the search for the missing.

Search for Missing Continues

FL2211134391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Cuban Border Guard and Ministry of the Interior crews continue the search for the more than 100 missing Haitians from the boat that capsized last Tuesday off the coast of Maisi Point. According to the latest information received, another 13 bodies have been found, consisting of two children, five women, and six men, bringing to 29 the number of bodies found.

So far, the survivors number 60. They are receiving free medical attention and food in the camp set up in Maisi Point to shelter the large number of Haitians which have been arriving on our coast recently.

Meanwhile, the dead are being buried immediately in the local cemetery due to the bad condition of the bodies. Hygiene, epidemiology, forensic, medical, nursing, and Red Cross personnel are engaged in, among other things, cleaning and fumigating the area where the bodies are being found. According to reports from survivors, the sailboat left Haiti with 190 people aboard in an effort to flee to the United States to seek asylum. The capsizing occurred the same day of the departure, due to the poor safety conditions of the boat which did not withstand the strong currents and winds of the Windward Passage.

Casualties Reported

FL2211144991 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1152 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Cuban medical authorities are conducting intense efforts to identify and process bodies for burial in Maisi Point where a vessel capsized last Tuesday with approximately 200 Haitians aboard. The bodies being retrieved from the sea are generally in poor condition, for which reason immediate burial at the Maisi Point cemetery is necessary. The medical personnel are conducting coordinated efforts to clean and fumigate the area where the bodies are being gathered before burial. Health workers are treating the survivors at the Maisi Point camp where urgent measures had already been taken to handle the large number of Haitians arriving on our coasts over the past few months.

Border Guard and Ministry of the Interior crews, with the aid of local residents, continue searching for survivors or bodies despite the strong waves that prevail in the region.

It has been reported that the sailboat departed Haiti, probably the same day as the accident, without the safety precautions needed to withstand the strong currents of the Windward Passage. So far, the number of deaths has climbed to 29, the number of survivors remains at 60, while the number of the missing is estimated to be higher than 100.

Malmierca Holds Talks With German Officials

LD2111215791 Berlin ADN in German 1238 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Havana (ADN)—The disappearance of the GDR is having a negative effect on the Cuban economy, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said on Wednesday at a meeting with German parliamentarians. In his view it would be useful for the new German state to continue relations with Cuba. Bilateral cooperation would be uncomplicated above all in tourism, for which there are good prospects in Cuba.

The minister stressed Cuba's readiness to integrate itself into the community of states in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cuba prefers to become a part of the great family of Latin America instead of being swallowed up by the United States. Because of their shared language, history, culture, and traditions, great opportunities exist for rapprochement between the countries of the region. Cuba aims at multifaceted cooperation and in this connection is also interested in capital from the neighboring countries. This is particularly important in view of the enormous economic difficulties facing the country. The minister said the reasons for the complicated situation include the blockade by the United States, which has lasted more than 30 years, and the changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

The delegation of the German Bundestag, which is on an official visit to the Caribbean island from 16 to 23 November, includes Michael Jung, Heinrich Lummer, and Ulrich-Paul Schmalz, Dr. Dionys Jobst, Bernd Reuter, Elke Ferner, and Joerge Ganschow.

As ADN learned from the Cuban side, the program includes various talks on bilateral relations between Germany and Cuba, including a meeting with Cuban National Assembly President Juan Escalona Reguera.

Chinese Delegation Greeted by Lionel Soto

FL2211025191 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Today, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba hosted two meetings between Cuban leaders and prominent guests visiting the island. Central Committee member Jesus Montane received Romesh Chandra, honorary president of the World Peace Council, who arrived in Havana on 17 November. It was a fraternal meeting during which Chandra said that Cuba represents a hope for those who want a new world. Montane and Chandra also talked about peace and its necessary presence in current international conflicts.

A few hours later, Lionel Soto, vice president of the Council of Ministers, greeted the Chinese delegation. It was a friendly meeting during which the two parties talked about Cuba's economic future and the cooperation China can offer. The Asian visitors said that they are impressed by the progress Cuba has made in the field of biotechnology and the special attention the revolution gives to health. The Chinese delegation, specialized in science and technology, will sign exchange agreements with Cuba.

Country's Position at Group of 77 Expressed

FL2211022091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2243 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Today, Cuba warned against a hasty and unbalanced conclusion of the Uruguay round of multilateral commercial talks which would not represent the interests of the developing countries. The Cuban position was expressed in Tehran before the Group of 77 by Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz who stressed the importance of supporting the struggle for the establishment of a fair and balanced free trade. Cuba is convinced that the elimination of discriminatory policies, tariff barriers, subsidies, solutions to the imbalance of the balance of payment, and the implementation of the most favored nation clause, would increase export potentials and it would be an important step toward alleviating the crisis. The Cubans know better than anyone what resisting the most unfair measures represent.

Possibility of Castro Trip to Cartagena Viewed

PA2111211791 Paris AFP in Spanish 2016 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, 21 Nov (AFP)—The presence of four Cuban newsmen in Cartagena on 21 November has given credence to rumors that Cuban President Fidel Castro will be present at the meeting of presidents of the Rio Group that is scheduled to be held at this beach resort on 3 and 4 December.

Although the PRENSA LATINA reporters declined to confirm the possibility of the Cuban president's arrival in Cartagena, they said that summits scheduled for the Rio Group, the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela), and the Andean Group (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela), are all very important to Cuba.

The Rio Group consists of member countries Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela, and special guest countries Costa Rica and Jamaica.

It has also been learned that several Cuban security agents have been in Cartagena for several days.

Spokesmen for the organizers have explained that Castro was not officially invited to any of the three meetings. They said, however, that as happened at the recent meeting in Cozumel, Mexico, Castro could just show up, even if he breaks with protocol. "If this occurs, no one could reject him," one of them said, adding that "Castro is an unpredictable leader."

Spokesmen for the Colombian Foreign Ministry said that they know nothing about a possible Castro visit to Cartagena.

Opposition Member's Home Attacked by 'Mob'

PA2211124291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2343 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] [No dateline as received] On 20 November, Elizardo Sanchez, president of the Cuban Human Rights and National Reconciliation Commission, charged that Cuban opposition member Maria Elena Cruz Varela had been attacked by "a mob."

Sanchez said that approximately 200 persons "attacked" Cruz Varela's home causing damage. They also went through documents found at the dissident's home.

According to the human rights organization, the opposition member was taken to the Revolutionary National Police station in the Alamar area and then "set free at midnight on 19 November."

Sanchez labeled these "barbaric acts" and expressed his trust that Fidel Castro's government will adopt the necessary steps to avoid the repetition of these actions.

Threat of Soviet Economic Collapse Noted

FL2111145491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1208 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The United States today approved an aid package to the USSR for $1.5 billion, mostly in agricultural resources. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that this aid must be distributed among the central Soviet authorities and the various republics.

Additionally, Arkadiy Vol'skiy, vice president of the Soviet Interstate Economic Committee, said that the total collapse of the Soviet economy could occur by next fall if the present disintegration of inter-republican ties continues. Vol'skiy added that the 15-percent drop in production between January and November of the present year was due to disorganization in inter-republican contacts.

Army Conducts Moncada Exercise Satisfactorily

FL2111193091 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1833 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] This is the second day of the Moncada 2-91-1 exercise which is progressing satisfactorily in Villa Clara Province. The exercise features new dynamics and variables under the control of Central Army officers and inspectors. The objective of the exercise is to strengthen the performance of the command and control structure at every level of the organization and conduction of

combat missions. The team of Central Army inspectors is of the opinion that there is a good response to the dynamics and that decisions are being adjusted to the requirements of the territorial defense system.

Provincial Defense Councils, municipalities, zones, and MTT [Territorial Troops Militia] units of Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, and Cienfuegos are participating in the maneuvers.

Cooperation Committee for Enterprises Created

FL2111193991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The committee for cooperation among enterprises in Havana has been created at the provincial headquarters of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Havana. Jorge Lezcano, member of the PCC Politburo and PCC first secretary in Havana, and Pedro Chavez, president of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government, were present during this first working meeting.

The creation of this committee meets the economic guidelines stipulated at the Fourth PCC Congress. Cooperation among enterprises began in March among the municipalities in the capital. This allows for problems to be solved quickly. Besides solving problems among enterprises, this type of cooperation is also solving problems in commercial establishments such as milk stores and butcher shops.

Efficiency Modification Implemented at Nickel Factory

FL2111163291 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The Ernesto Che Guevara, the third Cuban nickel factory located in Moa, has experienced an approximate 15-percent increase in efficiency, while its consumption of energy has been reduced to levels closer to its projected goal. This was accomplished after a series of modifications were implemented during a hiatus in production operations.

During a tour of the facility, engineer Lino Chaviano, senior metallurgy specialist, pointed out the principal innovations and initiatives that will guarantee higher efficiency once operations are resumed, in contrast to the situation experienced before the break in operations.

For example, the installation of gas collectors has eliminated environmental pollution almost entirely. This also allows residual gases from the ovens to be used to generate power and save approximately 30 percent of the fuel used to dry the mineral.

Modifications have also been made in other areas of the technological process, with the outstanding participation of members of ANIR [National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts] committees and Technical Youth Brigades.

Dominican Republic

No Contracts Negotiated To Employ Haitians

FL2111191591 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The executive director of the State Sugar Council [CEA] has announced that the next sugarcane harvest will begin in January. Engineer Juan Arturo Biagui pointed out that the Santa Fe and Barahona refineries will be the first to begin processing the cane. He estimated the total amount of sugarcane to be processed at 400,000 tons. The executive director of the CEA explained that each refinery will consecutively join the harvest operation and added that the last refinert to join the process will be Los Llanos and Amistad mills in the northern region.

He emphasized that Haitian inmigrants will not be employed because no contracts are being negotiated to employ Haitian workers, due to the current situation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Juan Arturo Biagui thanked President Balaguer for his support in the recovery of the CEA, and added that he trusts that the next harvest will fulfill the unfinished commitment contracted by [words indistinct].

Haiti

Honorat Says Aristide Cannot Return to Power

FL2111195491 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1700 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] During a telephone conversation with a reporter of a private radio station in Bogota, Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat stated today that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has had several problems with the law in Haiti. He added that there will be no discussion about the return of the former president to power.

Honorat went on to say: We feel he cannot return because he has abused the law and charges have been lodged against him for acts he committed in the execution of his mandate. He asserted, however, that the new Haitian authorities are willing to negotiate with the deposed president and to talk with the members of the OAS special mission so a solution can be found to the current crisis. The head of the provisional government explained that Aristide is no longer the president of Haiti because the legislative assembly works as the supreme representative of power in Haiti.

Aristide Supporters Occupy Canadian Embassy

PA2111183991 Paris AFP in Spanish 1534 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Nov (AFP)—Approximately 20 young supporters of deposed President Jean-Bertrand

Aristide on 21 November were still occupying the consular offices of the Canadian Embassy in Port-au-Prince.

The young people, who entered the consulate's waiting room on the afternoon of 20 November, identified themselves as students and demanded the release of fellow students who were arrested on 12 November.

Through the grillwork of the embassy's windows the students shouted "T'tide!" (Aristide) and antigovernment slogans to passersby and onlookers.

Some of the young people said that they were willing to remain there until the deposed president returned. By midmorning no uniformed policemen had been sighted outside the embassy, which is located on Delmas Avenue.

When contacted by AFP, Canadian Ambassador Bernard Dussault declined comment. Yesterday evening he said the Canadian Government was studying the situation.

Seek Political Asylum

FL2111213791 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in Creole 1100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] A group of approximately 20 young men and women took refuge in the Canadian Embassy during the afternoon of 20 November. These young people say they are partisans of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. They are seeking political asylum at the Canadian Embassy. Canadian Ambassador Bernard Dussault refused to make any comment or confirm this news to AFP journalists.

Libyan, Cuban Link Denied

PA2211002691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2348 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Local sources have said that "it is false" that the 30 Haitian students who are occupying part of the Canadian consulate have ties with Libyan terrorism or Cuban extremists.

Journalistic and political sources have told NOTIMEX that there are no grounds to state that the students, who on 20 November requested asylum in the Canadian Embassy, have links to Libya or Cuba. Such an assertion was made by a spokesman for the Canadian Secretariat of State.

A Haitian journalist said that "such a statement serves only to justify the repression" that the coup leaders are carrying out against the students and the people." [quotation marks as received]

Radio Canada reported on the afternoon of 21 November that there is no real basis for the charge and it added that the only link to Libya was a Libyan flag that the students placed in a university building as a joke.

According to sources of Radio Canada and NOTIMEX, the students are not armed and they only want to leave the country to escape the repression.

Several dozen policemen continue to surround the Canadian Embassy. There is fear in Port-au-Prince that an action will be undertaken to dislodge the students.

Haitian soldiers and policemen have killed between 600 and 1,000 people since the 29 September coup. Several dozen students were arrested several days ago and others have been tortured.

Civic Crusade Distributes Anti-Embargo Petition

FL2111223191 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The Civic Crusade for a Better Haiti, which is comprised of approximately 30 organizations sponsored by the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] and the PDCH [Haitian Christian Democratic Party], has sent a petition to collect signatures of people who are against the embargo ordered by the OAS and also to protest all forms of foreign civilian or military intervention in the country's crisis. Crusade Coordinator Serge Montes, has said that several petition forms have already been distributed to numerous social, professional, and political organizations to collect signatures.

[Begin Montes recording] When the embargo was implemented on 5 November, we launched an anti-embargo operation. This operation is being carried out by several organizations that are out in the field. These organizations distributed petitions to various organizations throughtout the country, especially when we had fuel. The community leaders passed the petitions on to the people in their communities for them to sign. Each person signing this petition is saying two things: I do not agree with the OAS measures against Haiti and I do not agree with any forms of foreign civilian or military intervention in Haiti. [end recording]

Mr. Mondestin Jr., coordinator of the operation for the West and Artibonite regions, said that these steps are not politically oriented or are they against the return of President Aristide. These are steps being taken to help save the Haitian people who are experiencing the hardships resulting from the embargo on the country.

[Begin Mondestin recording] We are not debating whether Aristide should or should not return to the country. We want to emphasize the desperate misery of the masses which the embargo is heightening. We believe that because of the masses' ignorance and because of other communication problems that make people unable to understand the situation, the embargo cannot solve the political problem but rather worsen it. They [not further identified] make people believe that the embargo was implemented to avoid a violent solution. The embargo will contribute even further to violence. If a

man cannot go out for 15 days, when he cannot sell his products, he becomes bitter.

So many other situations can develop from the embargo. We, in the crusade, while waiting for the negotiations to result in a solution, want the OAS to lift the economic sanctions and revoke all the other decisions already made and help the relaunch the country's activities and help the Haitian people to survive. We think that the negotiations can still be held and a favorable solution for the Haitian people and constitutional order can be found. We want to make a point of advising the OAS that the embargo does more harm than good to the country. [end recording]

Mr. Mondestin added that the crusade is calling on several Latin American and Caribbean organizations to ask the OAS to revoke its decision to enforce an embargo on Haiti. [passage omitted].

Volel Charges Aristide of Constitution Violations

FL2111223791 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Eddy Volel, leader of the Christian Democratic Assembly [RDC], has issued a statement assessing the administration of the former regime. In his statement, Eddy Volel defines the word usurpation, and adds that he believes that it is a political offense that calls for condemnation and punishment. Eddy Volel believes that the oath taken by the former president on 7 February is invalid. The RDC leader denounced violations to Article 7 of the Constitution by the former government when, at the National Palace, it nominated Rene Preval and several other state employees.

The RDC leader also denounced that Articles 164, 168, and 221 of the Constitution were violated with the appointment of judges to the Court of Cassation. This is evidence against the former government. Eddy Volel also mentioned the creation of a personal Army as another great offense to the 1987 Constitution. All of that was complemented with the threat of necklacing. According to Eddy Volel, the former president deserves to go to prison for all the violations to the 1987 Constitution.

Honorat Cites Red Cross Report on Victims

FL2111210591 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in French 1230 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat made statements to Radio Galaxie yesterday. In his statements, Honorat shed some light on several current issues, especially on the problem of human rights in Haiti, the relations existing between his government and the Army, and a possible return of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti. Honorat told us that this is a decision that must be made by the nation. Let us listen to an excerpt of Honorat's statements. Details will be broadcast later.

[Begin Honorat recording] One must remember that there has been a state of civil war in Haiti since 27 September. That state of civil war was ordered by President Aristide himself. His 27 September speech was a declaration of social war. [Words indistinct] the Army, which is a Haitian institution, reacted and everyone knows the results. Certainly, there were victims. We condemned that reaction. We continue to condemn it. We condemned it as well as the situation that unleashed the reaction. [Words indistinct] the reason for that reaction was a declaration of civil war preceded by seven months of political assassinations and seven months of street justice through uprooting and necklacing. That is what gave rise to that reaction. Thus, the victims of the reaction put themselves in that situation because they supported the policy of social hatred and the policy of national destruction that had begun in the country seven months earlier. There are many exaggerations [words indistinct] of those victims, the victims of the 29 and 30 September events. I listened to the great foreign radio station [not further identified] and heard its systematic and spiteful policy of slandering and disinformation against the country. That station claimed that thousands were dead.

I am going to cite now statistics released by the International Red Cross. I can cite the name of the Red Cross official who was here between 3 and 31 October. Marie-Aude Lude is the name of the International Red Cross official who issued the following statistics on victims during the [word indistinct] period in Haiti:

There were approximately 150 dead and approximately 500 wounded. Seventy percent of the wounded suffered minor wounds such as scratches [words indistinct]; 35 percent were hospitalized for one to 15 days and only 5 percent were hospitalized for more than 15 days. [end recording]

This was Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat in statements to Radio Galaxie during which he cleared up several matters. We will broadcast a detailed report on Honorat's statements during our 1300 newscast.

Conacom Restates Position on Crisis

FL2111222391 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] In a press release dated 19 November, the National Congress of Democratic Movements, Conacom, issued a statement on its position following the events of 30 September which led to a crisis in the country. Conacom announces that it never signed any joint documents with any other political parties nor did Conacom provide mandates to party leaders to sign on its behalf. Conacom asserted that an item appearing in HAITI-OBSERVATEUR with the signatures of Francois Benoit, for the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, and Rene Theodore, for the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, does not involve Conacom at all.

The communique [not further specified] issued on 7 October stated that before observing Article 149 of the Constitution and so forth and the letter addressed to OAS for a negotiated solution in the crisis, can serve as a reference to indicate Conacom stance in the current circumstances. Conacom renews its belief in a political commitment and consensus that could contribute to solving the crisis. Conacom, therefore, supports the upcoming meeting between Haitian parliamentarians and representatives of the former president with the mediation of the OAS. Conacom considers this arbitration to be positive in light of the crisis the country is currently experiencing.

Group To Travel to Colombia To Discuss Crisis

PA2111145791 Paris AFP in Spanish 1336 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Nov (AFP)—A very well-informed parliamentarian source said here today that a Haitian parliamentarian mission will travel to Cartagena (Colombia) on 22 November to start "inter-Haitian" talks under OAS auspices to find a solution to the Haitian crisis.

This delegation will meet with representatives of toppled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide or Father Aristide himself during the talks.

The same source stated that two OAS missions—one tasked with investigating human rights violations prior to and after the toppling of President Aristide and the other with assessing the negative effects of the embargo decreed by the OAS—will travel to Port-au-Prince on 25 November.

"Certain measures regarding the embargo will be adopted during the mission," the source added.

Dejean Belizaire, president of the Haitian National Assembly (joint meeting of Senate and Chamber of Deputies) on 19 November asked for a "softening" of the embargo for humanitarian reasons.

The names of the members of the Haitian parliamentarian delegation will be announced on the afternoon of 21 November. Some parliamentarians want representatives of the provisional government of Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, the Army, and the private sector to be represented on the delegation.

The discussions will be held under the auspices of designated OAS mediator Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, former Colombian foreign minister.

On 20 November, Father Aristide announced in Paris that he is willing to make political concessions during the discussions to reach an agreement on his possible return to power based on mutual conditions and guarantees.

More on Crisis Discussion

FL2111204491 Port-au-Prince Tropic FM in French 1330 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] A Haitian parliamentary delegation will travel to Cartagena, in Colombia on 22 November for inter-Haitian discussions under OAS auspices to find a solution to the Haitian crisis. This is what a very reliable parliamentary source in Port-au-Prince reported on 20 November. This delegation will meet with representatives of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide or Father Aristide during these discussions.

The same source confirmed that two OAS missions, one in charge of investigating human rights violations committed before and after President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's overthrow; and another in charge of studying the negative effects of the embargo ordered by the OAS will arrive in Port-au-Prince on 25 November. The source said that certain measures would be adopted then concerning the embargo.

On 19 November, Dejean Belizaire, the president of the National Assembly—the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies combined—requested an alleviation of the embargo for humanitarian reasons prior to the negotiations in Cartagena. The exact composition of the Haitian parliamentary delegation will be known by the end the day. Several parliamentarians want representatives of Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat's provisional government, the Army, and the private sector to be part of the delegation. The discussions will take place under the auspices of designated OAS mediator, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, a former Colombian foreign affairs minister.

Jamaica

Haitians Drift Ashore, Future 'Uncertain'

FL2111182691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1522 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica Nov 21 CANA—Thirty-five Haitians who drifted ashore Jamaica's east coast in a small boat Wednesday are now resting and receiving treatment in Kingston, but their future is uncertain. The boat was apparently heading for Miami when it developed engine trouble and drifted.

The Haitians, including five children, four under the age of five, and eight women, were assisted by Jamaican fishermen to land at Rocky Point, St. Thomas more than 50 miles east of Kingston. They were given money by villagers and transported by the police to Kingston.

Reports say the Haitians appeared "weary and emaciated." A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman could not say what the government's response would be. "We have to wait and see," he said. Meanwhile, a request by the United States for Jamaica to take some of the fleeing Haitians now being held at sea is being considered by

government. Foreign Affairs Minister David Coore told the news media late Wednesday that a decision would be taken Thursday or Friday.

Thousands of Haitians have fled their country in small boats over the last several weeks, most trying to reach the United States. The latest exodus of Haitians follows the September 30 overthrow of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and allegations of a military rule of terror.

Hundreds of Haitian refugees are reportedly being held on U.S. boats at sea and at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba. The U.S. Government has asked a number of Caribbean governments to accept some of the Haitians. The U.S. action has sparked controversy, with some black congressmen accusing their government of racism against Haitians.

'Temporary Asylum' Granted

FL2211004991 Bridgetown CANA in English 2305 GMT 21 Nov 91

[By Garfield Myers]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica Nov 21 CANA—The Jamaican Government has agreed to give up to 100 Haitian refugees "temporary asylum" following requests from the United States Government, Prime Minister Michael Manley's Jamaica House office announced Thursday. The number includes the 35 refugees who landed in St. Thomas in eastern Jamaica on Wednesday.

A release said the refugees would be housed at an Army barracks at Montpelier, St. James, more than 100 miles west of the capital, Kingston. It was not clear whether the refugees would be housed there permanently. The release noted that "the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is bearing the full cost incurred by governments who have agreed to take Haitian refugees." It said the decision by the Jamaican Government to take the refugees was in keeping with its commitment to the "legitimate government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the restoration of democracy in Haiti."

The Foreign Affairs Ministry is co-ordinating the arrangements to accomodate the Haitians in collaboration with the Jamaica Defence Force, the police, the Office of Disaster Preparedness, the Jamaica Red Cross, and the Ministry of Health.

The decision to accept the Haitians followed meetings Thursday involving Manley and members of his cabinet. The prime minister has briefed the opposition Jamaica Labour Party on the situation, the release said.

The U.S. has asked several Caribbean Community countries to accept Haitian refugees but as the English-speaking Trade and Integration Grouping discused a unified position, only Belize had before Thursday agreed to resettle 100 Haitians.

Thousands of Haitians have fled their country in small boats over the last several weeks, most trying to reach the United States. The latest exodus of Haitians follows the September 30 overthrow of elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and allegations of a military rule of terror. Hundreds of Haitian refugees are reportedly being held on U.S. boats at sea and at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba.

The U.S. action has sparked controversy, with some black congressmen accusing their government of racism against Haitians.

Trinidad and Tobago

UNC Leader on Economic Treaty With U.S.

FL2211002591 Bridgetown CANA in English 2201 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Nov 21, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's opposition leader Basdeo Panday has called on the population to convert the December 16 general elections into a referendum for an economic treaty with the United States. At the party's first campaign meeting on Wednesday since the announcement of the elections date, the leader of the United National Congress (UNC) said if they were voted into office, it would give them the mandate to begin negotiations with the U.S. The treaty would involve the free movement of labour, capital, and goods between the two countries.

He said because of the larger regional groupings around the world, the twin-island state was threatened with extinction if it didn't get into a wider grouping. Panday, a former external affairs minister said the Caribbean Community (Caricom) was too small for any significant trade and the U.S was ideal since the two countries have long years of trade relations.

"This country is going to be excluded from regional economic trade unless it becomes part of one of those economic groupings," Panday told the audience in San Juan, east of Port-of-Spain. He defended his suggestion, saying it was not a "pie in the sky" dream as government's critics had labelled it.

Costa Rica

President on Establishing Relations With Cuba

PA2211153591 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 21 Nov 91 p 4a

[Article by Carlos Argueda C. and Mauricio Martinez S.]

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon confirmed that Costa Rica will continue to maintain a firm position opposing Cuba's return to the OAS. Foreign Minister Bernd Neihaus, however, confirmed that Cuba's return to the OAS will be supported if Havana respects human rights.

The statements were issued separately and shortly after a number of secret contacts between the two nations were disclosed.

At the same time, Liberal Deputy Oscar Soley Soler presented a motion for Foreign Minister Niehaus to appear before the full Senate to brief them on the conversations held between Cuban and Costa Rican representatives and to clarify the government's official position. The matter was debated and could be voted on 21 November.

In addition, on 20 November, the foreign minister announced that Costa Rica was granting political asylum to Cubans Jorge Luis Perez Maderos, Elvis Lantru Salome, and Nuria Cid; two musicians and a dancer from the Spanish Dance Company of the National Cuban Ballet who deserted on 18 November after the group's last presentation at the Melico Salazar theater.

When consulted after a meeting with the Unity Coalition, President Calderon reiterated that his government will not establish diplomatic or consular relations with Fidel Castro's regime.

Calderon did acknowledge that some delegates met here with Government and Public Security Minister Luis Fishman to present some specific concerns.

Meanwhile, Minister Neihaus said that he talked on two occasions in an informal manner with his Cuban counterpart Isidro Malmierca, who is authorized to talk on behalf of the Cuba Government, adding that if there are talks at other levels he is not interested in them because they do not represent that regime.

Minister Fernandez Resigns Effective Jan 92

PA1911140091 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Information and Communications Minister Guillermo Fernandez Rojas has resigned. The minister confirmed his decision this afternoon.

After a meeting with President Rafael Angel Calderon, he announced: I am not at my best in a political post.

Both Calderon and Fernandez agreed that the resignation should be effective 31 December, exactly one year and one month after Fernandez became information minister.

Fernandez said: My resignation does not mean that I had any kind of problem with any official or minister, and much less with the president. He added: I am resigning due my own convictions and because I know that this is not the field in which I can perform best.

Fernandez said that the president accepted his resignation and asked him to stay until 31 December because he has to coordinate and finish working on some plans. Fernandez thanked the president for the trust he placed in him and for his generosity. Fernandez noted that he is sure that the Calderon administration will maintain its information and communication policy and will have many more resources to implement various programs.

Minister Fernandez denied rumors that he has been offered the post of director of LA REPUBLICA. He stated: So far I have not received any direct or indirect offer from that newspaper or from any other media. I am looking for a job as of right now, he added.

Regarding the possibility that he resigned because of a lack of resources, Fernandez said that this is not true. He explained that President Calderon has adopted measures to supply the information minister with technical and material resources effective January 1992. Fernandez said that the new minister of the Presidency, Rolando Lacle, is clearly aware of the role of the Information Ministry.

While it is true that the Information Ministry headed by Guillermo Fernandez did not conflict with the chief of state or with any of his colleagues in the cabinet, it is no secret that he resigned because President Calderon overruled one of his orders.

Fernandez had ordered the transfer of an official from the Information Program, which Calderon overruled when the affected employee appealed to the president.

Despite assurances that there has been no friction, everybody knows that Calderon's overruling of the decision by the minister is what caused Fernandez to resign.

USSR Ambassador Comments on Cuba, Shevardnadze

PA2111044491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0008 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] San Jose, 20 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Valeriya Kalmyk, the ambassador to Costa Rica for the future Union of Sovereign States, [title as received] has stated that Cuba must enter a period of changes "in order to join the Latin American family."

She stated during a news conference that "the dear Cuban people will participate in the political and economic adjustment demanded by the current era in order to march with Latin America toward democracy and social progress."

She acknowledged, however, Cuba's great advances in the medical field in general and in pediatrics in particular, as well as in the field of education. In that field, Cuba has reached "a leading position in Latin America."

The diplomat reaffirmed her trust that "the intelligence of the Cuban people will allow them to see the need for changes and the importance of their return to the Latin American family and the international community."

She said "our relations with Cuba will continue to follow the patterns of international commerce. Cuba needs petroleum and we need sugar; thus, we will continue that trade in accordance with the prices of oil and sugar in the world market."

On the other hand, she pointed out the difficult situation her country is facing due to the problems with the economy and food supplies.

She attributed this to the former "supercentralized" economy, to suffering from political instability for one and a half years, and to the coup d'etat last August, precisely when the most important food products were being harvested.

Kalmyk said that to solve this situation they "expect to have the support of the EC and the group of the seven most industrialized countries of the world."

The ambassador stated her optimism for the recent appointment of Edward Shevardnadze as foreign minister, "because, due to his competence and humanism, he can make an important contribution to the current process of change."

El Salvador

Cristiani Announces Halt to Bombing, Shelling

PA2211041391 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0302 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Report by Fausto Valladares from San Miguel]

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani announced in San Miguel on 21 November that Air Force bombing and artillery shelling have been suspended to help create favorable conditions for the peace talks. He said that this measure does not correspond to the truce declared by the Farabundo Marti National Front [FMLN], but to the desire to make it possible for the violence to end for good. He called upon the rebels to keep their word with regard to the truce, however.

[Begin Cristiani recording] Certain measures have been taken, particularly regarding the offensive use of the Air Force and artillery. In other words, offensive bombing and shelling have been stopped. [end recording]

Cristiani, who had participated in a religious event in San Miguel as part of the September [as heard] activities, said that counterinsurgency operations might diminish if the guerrillas make good on their pledge to establish a unilateral cease-fire.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We know full well that the FMLN can stop fighting whenever it wants. They have done it for 11 years. Therefore, if clashes occur, it is not the fault of the Armed Forces because it is the latter's duty to patrol the entire territory. We also believe that it is important for the FMLN to comply with their own cease-fire if we are going to completely stop the violence. [end recording]

Cristiani participated with his wife Margarita, Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce, and other government officials in a jointly officiated mass to honor Our Lady of the Peace, the patron saint of San Miguel. At the end of the mass, he held a news conference and said that the Jesuit case should not become political and that if Congressman Joe Moakley has any evidence [of the participation of other Armed Forces officers in the massacre] he should present it.

[Begin Cristiani recording] From the outset, we said that this was not a case to be politicized and that if anyone has evidence, there are places where he should present it so that justice can truly be administered. Politicizing does not contribute to the administration of justice. To the contrary, it does great harm to it. We reiterate that should anyone have proof of the involvement of more people in this or any other case, it is the courts that should get such evidence. [end recording]

In view of the government's announcement for peace, it remains to be seen to what extent military actions will diminish. Both President Cristiani and the FMLN have proclaimed their willingness to put an end to 11 years of civil war.

Ponce Rejects Charges, Denies Meeting

PA2111161491 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce rejected charges accusing him and four high-ranking military officers of participating in a meeting to plan the murder of the Jesuits. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Ponce was accompanied by Deputy Defense Minister Orlando Cepeda, who is also mentioned in the report. Cepeda denied the charges made against him. Cepeda said he considered the question by reporters, who insist on asking if he had been present at the meeting, as absurd. Cepeda responded in the same fashion as his superior to the question: there never was such a meeting.

[Begin Cepeda recording] This is an absurd question. We cooperated with the judge. I personally made a statment to the judge. I spoke to him for almost five hours, responding to questions. I do not believe that meeting ever took place. I reject these accusations, as we have said in the communique. There is an attempt here to weaken the image of the Armed Forces High Command, there is also an attempt to obtain personal political advantage by the representatives of this commission. I do not think there is anyone who can truly say there was such a meeting. If there is someone who can say this, then let that person come forward.

Well, what I and everybody else is questioning is why they waited so long. The trial is almost over and the Salvadoran justice system implemented the legal process as required. Now he [U.S. Congressmen Joseph Moakley] questions the sentence given by the jury? Why? Yes, it hurts us because all this is really a political maneuver. [end recording]

Government-FMLN Talks Postponed Until 25 Nov

PA2211040491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0312 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Nov (EFE)—The peace talks between the Salvadoran Government and the rebels that were scheduled to start in the Mexican capital on 23 November were postponed until 25 November, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] Commander Leonel Gonzalez reported today.

Gonzalez, who did not explain the reasons for postponing the talks, said that in this round of talks, economic issues, political issues, and issues regarding the reduction of the Armed Forces and the creation of a Civilian National Police will be discussed.

Sources close to the talks told EFE that this new round of peace talks may not be held in the Mexican capital.

Gonzalez claims that the FMLN will continue its struggle in the political arena because "the rebels' struggle is a long term one." He noted that after the peace agreements are signed, the FMLN will act as a legal institution.

The Commission for the Consolidation of Peace in El Salvador began its third meeting in Mexico City today to analyze the progress and the development of the agreements signed on 25 September in New York.

Copaz Resumes Working Sessions in Mexico

PA2211030791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1801 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Nov (NOTIMEX)—The National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (Copaz) from El Salvador today resumed its round of negotiations prior to the signing of a definite cease-fire, rebel commander Francisco Jovel has reported.

Jovel, who together with Joaquin Villalobos represents the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in Copaz, explained that at this round of negotiations, the commission's procedures and what its political bearing will be once it starts operating, will be discussed.

According to the rebel leader, the parties will review the law that gives Copaz legal status as a judicial state institution once the cease-fire is signed.

Jovel stated that some points concerning the new national civilian police—an issue that has been negotiated in the peace process—will also be taken up.

According to Jovel, pensions for disabled war veterans, as well as a state pension system for the surviving relatives of fallen fighters on both sides, will also be studied.

In the negotiations, Colonels Juanel Antonio Martinez and Dionicio Machuca, as well as six representatives of El Salvador's eight political parties who have representatives at the Legislative Assembly, will participate on behalf of the government.

Copaz is authorized to review all the agreements signed throughout the negotiations that will put an end to an 11-year internal conflict in this Central American nation, according to the New York agreements.

Commander Jovel stressed that Copaz is the mechanism through which civilian society shall directly participate in the implementation of all the agreements signed.

The rebel leader added that the commission is authorized to arrive at all manner of conclusions and to make recommendations concerning implementation of the peace agreements.

Guatemala

Army Commander Says URNG Uses Mexico for Haven

PA1911171491 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Nov 91 p4

[Text] Colonel Victor Augusto Vasquez Echevarria, commander of Military Zone No. 23 in El Peten, has stated that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] has used part of Mexican territory as a bridge and haven. Military operations carried out by El Peten units this week confirmed this report.

Vasquez Echevarria stated that, during these operations—which resulted in sporadic clashes—his troops found boxes full of explosives and weapons such as M-16 rifles, M-60 machine guns, RPG-2 rocket launchers, and grenade launchers.

He noted that this action was a serious blow to the URNG as it demonstrated the group's weakness, a weakness that results from a lack of logistic support from international organizations.

He also noted that the Army is very happy to see that refugees are returning from Mexico, however, warned that they must return with a desire to work and not full of resentments and foreign ideologies.

Rebels Occupy Town, Destroy Radio Station

PA1911171391 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 18 Nov 91 p 5

[Reporter by Reporter Lucas Arnulfo Chapas Perez]

[Text] Escuintla, 18 Nov—Guerrillas occupied the town of San Vicente de Pacaya, which is located in the northern part of Escuintla Department, and forced community residents to participate in a rally. At the rally, the speakers launched a diatribe against the National Army and President Serrano's government and destroyed the town's radio communications equipment.

Some 300 rebels staged the two-hour occupation. Although the operation occurred on 15 November, detailed reports were not obtained until 17 November because the town was left without any communications.

The rebels divided themselves into groups to enter the homes and force residents to go to the town square. Others went to the townhall and, while some forced the employees to walk to the square, others destroyed the radio communications equipment and left the town without any communications.

According to testimonies obtained by this correspondent, the guerrillas, who wore black shirts and olive drab trousers, claimed to belong to the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG. The URNG groups the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, the Rebel Armed Forces, the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, and the Guatemalan Labor Party.

Residents who were forced to attend the rally said the guerrillas lashed out at the National Army and President Serrano's government.

San Vicente de Pacaya is an unprotected town, without communications and without the permanent presence of security forces or the media. It is easily accessible to the guerrillas.

Panama

U.S. Economic Crisis To Affect Area Economies

PA2111185791 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 21 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon has said that the economic crisis facing the United States will prevent Latin American access to U.S. trade markets, and thus, affect the local economy.

Arias Calderon, who returned from a U.S. trip a few days ago, pointed out that the U.S. Government will consider domestic issues and ignore serious international socioeconomic problems. He added that the Initiative of the Americas, a brainchild of President Bush, is facing opposition from certain segments of U.S. society.

The vice president added that the relation between the serious U.S. crisis and Latin America's efforts to revive its economy, following a disastrous decade, suggests that this effort by Latin American economies to find solutions could face serious obstacles.

Arias Calderon said that the United States has started to focus on a national agenda now that the USSR is no longer an adversary, and this he added, could mean cuts in aid earmarked for Latin American countries.

Government Proposes Breaking Texaco Monopoly

PA2211031491 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 Nov 91 p 1

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] Panama will break the monopoly of the transnational corporation Texaco in processing petroleum through the Panama Refinery and it will allow as of 1992 the import of oil byproducts, it was learned on 18 November from high government circles.

Commerce Minister Roberto Alfaro told the press that as of 18 November, negotiations are underway with a Texaco delegation that included its president, J. Black, and the president of the refinery, Salvador Sanchez.

"We propose to reduce the 10 percent margin of profit to five percent," Alfaro said, but he did not disclose further details on the negotiations.

Various companies that distribute oil byproducts have complained in recent years about the monopoly that allows Texaco to operate the refinery without any competition. Panama granted Texaco a contract that expires in 1992 to operate the refinery.

At present, the refinery processes the 24,000 barrels per day [bpd] that the country uses each day, but Alfaro said that in negotiations it will seek to increase production to 60,000 bpd to have "a much lower production cost."

Panama currently purchases petroleum from Ecuador and Venezuela, which is all processed by the refinery that also distributes byproducts to the gasoline stations that are operated by Texaco.

Although the authorities have defended Texaco's right to have its distributing stations, the Association of Gasoline Distributors has questioned what it considers a monopoly that affects the small entrepreneurs.

Although Mexico was the main supplier of petroleum for Panama, the supply of approximately 12,000 bpd was suspended early in 1990 due to a debt of nearly $100,000 that Panama owes Mexico.

Attorney General Action Against Legislator Noted

PA2211034091 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Nov 91 p A-4

[Editorial: "The Controversy Between the Attorney General and the Legislative Assembly"]

[Text] The success and consolidation of a genuine democracy depends to a large extent on the respect the three state organs that support it have for constitutional regulations. The independent yet harmonious functions of these three government branches is the only thing that protects the interests of the society under the present political, social, and economic conditions. These factors are even more necessary in a nation where the democratic system has been established for such a short time. Despite this binding regulation, the flagrant intrusion of one state branch into the dominion of another has not been rare. For this reason, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz' action ordering Elias Castillo suspended as legislator has attracted the attention of many people. In response to what is considered a legal blunder, the Legislative Assembly has unanimously approved a resolution bitterly condemning Cruz and calling his attention to his flagrant violation of the Constitution.

There had not been a single such occurrence in the country's history thus far. Everything dealing with the accusations, investigations, and the request to try Castillo establishes a legal precedent in our country. In the Attorney General's decision and the Assembly's rejection of the attempt to remove one legislator elected by the people, there are a number of facts well worth assessing logically and objectively. To begin with, the public functions of one legislator elected by the Panamanian people should not be compared with that of an official designated by an executive decree to a position in a state's decentralized institution. In this regard, our Constitution and bylaws are explicit. It is up to the Legislative Assembly at all times to authorize legal proceedings against a legislator. It is up to the Supreme Court to prosecute him and rule that he be removed if necessary. In this regard, the Legislative Assembly has pointed out that the Attorney General's action represents an attack on the institution's historical and juridical nature, the parliamentarians' immunity, and the independence of a branch of government.

The Assembly has properly assessed the consequences of Cruz' actions. The issue has gone beyond Castillo's personal interest and become an unfortunate precedent that harms the entire branch. There is something remarkable, however, in the organ's upright stand. For the first time, a unanimous decision has been made in the current Assembly. This fact must be a warning for the other state branches, a way of demanding respect for its independence and historic tradition. Although the Supreme Court must handle the case, Cruz made a decision outside his jurisdiction. This is all the more serious because the person involved was elected by the Panamanian people and is invested with special privileges. In addition, it is evident that the Assembly does not intend to heed Cruz' request. The situation will surely create a great vacuum which, at the end of the road, can do great harm to the Panamanian administration of justice and our incipient democracy.

In addition, a number of factors that now confound the issue and create unforgivable irregularities are linked to the accusation, arrest, and legal proceedings initiated against Castillo. From the outset, a number of irregularities that now, halfway through, distort the proper proceedings, were arraigned against him out of a desire to persecute him politically. More than once, the Assembly has requested Castillo's release, convinced that Article 154 of the Constitution has been violated. The only way to administer justice would be to return the file to the Assembly and thus right this wrong. We will not discuss whether or not the legislator is innocent or guilty. We do demand the fulfillment of constitutional principles and the law. The political spirit of revenge does no good in administering justice in Panama. It is necessary to continue to refresh some people's memory. Legislator Castillo was elected by the people. He must be dealt with fairly and according to the legal standards in force.

Argentina

Menem Discusses 'Positive' U.S. Trip, Issues

PY2111122891 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 1545 GMT 20 Nov 91

[News conference by President Carlos Menem at Ezeiza International Airport upon returning from his visit to the United States—live; no video available]

[Text] [Pazo] I am Jorge Pazo of ATC [Argentina Televisora Color]). Mr. President, the first question, obviously, is whether you can summarize this trip that is so important and that has just ended.

[Menem] Well now, I believe that this was one of the trips that was better covered by the press, both the national and international press—but especially the national press. Everything that you have been reporting actually happened.

In sum, the trip was good, positive. I believe we made some very important accomplishments for the Argentine Republic, like the investment guarantees agreement signed with the United States, the first agreement of this type signed with a Latin American country or any other country in the world; the pledge that the IMF will grant us an expanded facilities loan by late March 1992; and we will begin negotiations with the creditor banks by late January 1992, which means that we already will join the Brady Plan.

In a nutshell, this was on our agenda for discussion in the United States. Therefore, things fared well.

Argentina has a really exceptional prestige both in the United States and in the world.

Of course, I am deeply involved in all of these things, working every day. I am involved and it could happen that I do not realize what is happening around the Argentine Republic. And I am returning satisfied, with high spirits, in order to continue working as I did so far.

[Silvestre] I am Gustavo Silvestre from (?Arter), Channel 13. Last night you were in Miami, meeting with political leaders and exiles from the Cuban regime. In addition to the summary you just made on the economic and political side of your trip to the United States, there were many expectations about your talks with the Cuban exiles.

[Menem] Well now, I did not talk with the Cuban exiles there, but with the exiled Cuban leaders, namely Huber Matos, Jorge Mas Canosa, and other names that I do not remember at this moment. It was in New York. All of them, of course, hope for a democratic way out in Cuba, which is the stance taken by the Argentine Republic. This stance is not new, but it was taken a long time ago.

I believe it would be a historical gesture by the Cuban chief of state to allow his people to freely elect their authorities.

For Argentina, which raised the banner of democracy and liberty a long time ago, it is a matter of honor to continue championing these principles that have made the nations strong and great.

Therefore, I just believe that it will not be long before the Cuban people will be electing their authorities, as is proper, I repeat, in a world that is marching at a faster and faster pace toward liberty, especially in those countries where there is no liberty.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, with respect to this issue that you are addressing about democracy and liberty in America: Did you make a proposal with respect to the creation of a multinational organization to champion democracy in America? We would like to ask you to give us more detail, or tell us about your idea about this organization and if you will raise this issue in the upcoming meetings that you will hold in Venezuela and Colombia.

[Menem] Yes, of course I will raise this issue: To establish an organization resembling the OAS that will purely and exclusively dedicate itself to championing democracy and liberty in Latin America.

I will address these issues during a meeting of the presidents of the Group of 8, which comprised seven countries and now comprises 13, in Venezuela [as heard] and at a meeting of the Group of 15 in Colombia [as heard]. I will raise this issue in Caracas and in Cartagena. I will also raise the issue of Cuba, of Cuba's democratization.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, according to reports from the United States, you promised to the U.S. Jewish community the forthcoming opening of files of Nazi war criminals who sought refuge in Argentina after World War II. The questions are: Can you confirm this? When will this take place and in what manner?

[Menem] No, this is not so. I will begin by saying that the information we received was published in THE NEW YORK TIMES while we were flying to the United States. The report mentions an ill-famed individual who talked about this issue, saying that another person had reportedly told him that while reviewing some files, including those of Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele, I believe, he saw a file or record of Nazi war criminal Martin Borman.

We immediately contacted the Interior Ministry from our airplane here in Buenos Aires [as heard] to investigate this issue. There is no record on Martin Borman in the federal police files, in their secret files. There is indeed a record on Mengele, who entered Argentina in 1948 with a passport issued by the International Red Cross. Nevertheless, this is of public knowledge already. Therefore, I offered them the possibility of coming to our country and examining this file as many times as they want and making photocopies of it.

Nevertheless, I do not know if it is by chance or bad faith that this issue has now been raised while going to the

United States, after I have been permanently talking with the Jewish community here in the Argentine Republic and after their welcome. No one, absolutely no one, raised this issue. And precisely now, they are raising it. Only Mengele's records are in our files. They are there, at the disposal of those who want to examine them. They can come, study, examine. There is no problem whatsoever. We actually have nothing to hide.

[Rigoli] I am Claudio Rigoli of Channel 9. Mr. President, among the initial measures upon returning from your trip to the United States, will you veto a bill sanctioned by Congress, allowing retirees with nonappealable sentences to collect in cash and not in bonds?

[Menem] We will have a cabinet meeting tomorrow. I will raise this issue at this meeting and I will inform you afterwards. For the time being, I do not want to announce absolutely anything. I initially talked about the possibility of a veto, but I was not told that these were nonappealable sentences. Therefore, this changes the situation. At any rate, I do not want to take a single step that I cannot fulfill later and that will leave us in a bad situation because of the nonfulfillment of something that the state coffers cannot afford at this moment.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, back to the Brady Plan issue and the United States. Some reports were published today stating that, following the possibility of joining the Brady Plan, the creditor banks will exert some sort of pressure, trying to increase the installments on interest that are being paid at this moment. Is this true? What would the government's stance be if this happens?

[Menem] Negotiations will begin in late January 1992. With the expanded facilities loan and other funds that we will receive from various sources, the Argentine Government will have accumulated at that time, that is, by late January 1992, during the first quarter of 1992, about $5 billion or a little more.

Therefore, we will be in a position to negotiate this issue. It is important indeed to join the Brady Plan and achieve a substantial reduction of the Argentine Republic's current debt; a reduction of the principal; an extension of the payment deadlines; and negotiations on the interest.

[Esclausura] I am Nestor Esclausura of America TV. Mr. President, are there any possibilities of cabinet changes following Minister Porto's resignation?

[Menem] There are no possibilities whatsoever. Concerning Minister Porto's case, I have talked about this before and I am repeating it now. It was something that we had agreed upon with the minister over three months ago. I already had the appointment in petto, in the name of Dr. Julio Cesar Araoz to replace Minister Porto, because Minister Porto told me that he wanted to leave his post to become fully engaged in the political arena. He will run as a candidate for senator from the federal capital, and I want to tell you now already that the president of the nation will support this candidate.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, what will be the allocation of the nearly $60 million, according to estimates, yielded by the sale of Army properties? In other words, will this money be used to recondition the Army or for other things?

[Menem] All the proceeds will go to the state coffers and then the distribution will be made in accordance with the requirements of all parts of the community.

Therefore, if the Armed Forces need funds for their reorganization, they will, of course, receive the proper allocation.

[Capdevila] I am Capdevila of Radio El Mundo. Mr. President, you are aware of the electoral situation in Corrientes Province. Some comments were made today, stating that you reportedly asked the Justicialist to withdraw from the electoral race, thus allowing the Corrientes Autonomist Pact to take over the provincial governorship there. Is this true?

[Menem] Well now, I have already given my opinion on this issue and I am not going to discuss this again. Lately I have said absolutely nothing on this issue. Therefore, I refer myself to what I have already said on this issue about 10 days ago. Go back to the newspapers and the recordings of that time, 10 days ago, before leaving for the United States, and there you will find my opinion. Nevertheless, I have said absolutely nothing recently.

[Costaca] I am Costaca of the Cadena Eco. The infectious diseases department chief of Fernandez Hospital today harshly criticized an advertisement in which you sing about AIDS. What can you tell us about this issue?

[Menem] We are in a free, democratic, unrestricted society. Therefore, anyone can voice their criticism as they please. Criticism does not bother me at all. On the contrary, I am pleased by the fact that any individual is able to criticize the president.

[Gonzalez] I am Jorge Gonzalez of the news agency NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS. I wanted to know about the government's position as of today on the new dialogue with the Radical Civic Union, bearing in mind that there is a new opposition leader.

[Menem] The usual dialogue. We will continue our dialogue as we have done so far. Nevertheless, this question should be addressed to the president of the Justicialist Party and his assistants.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, I wanted to ask you if, during your talks with U.S. President George Bush and other U.S. political leaders, you discussed the issue of the return of democracy in Haiti the way it is being proposed for Cuba?

[Menem] This issue is being discussed constantly. We are convinced that it will not be long before the former Haitian president, the overthrown president, will return to his post in the Republic of Haiti.

This stance has been taken by the presidents of the countries comprising the OAS and also by the OAS itself which, through its agencies, has decided to maintain this stance so that the rebels, the putschists, will relinquish the Haitian Government and give Aristide his post again.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, I do not expect you to make a thorough analysis, but, in simple terms, what does it mean for Argentina if we join the Brady Plan next year and if we receive the expanded facilities loan next March?

[Menem] An expanded facilities loan represents support for the Argentine Republic in its effort to shake up the foreign debt negotiations. It will increase our reserves.

In addition to this expanded facilities loan, we will receive other loans from other countries and other organizations in order to join, I repeat, the Brady Plan.

And what does the Brady Plan represent? I have just told you. For example, our foreign debt with the private creditor banks totals $42 billion. After the Brady Plan, there will be a reduction; an extension; advantageous payment terms; and a reduction of the interest rates, but, a yet to be determined sum must be immediately paid in order to join the Brady Plan and for this we need the expanded facilities loan and the other funds that we will secure from other sources through which will join the plan.

In other words, with the Brady Plan, Argentina will be able to stop permanently worrying about its foreign debt and begin working for development, growth, and the accumulation of wealth resulting from work and production—quietly, without any haste and without permanent harassments. [laughs]

[Baraldo] I am Gerardo Baraldo from the state-owned Radio Quilmes FM. Mr. President, to what extent do you believe the people will be able to understand the government's achievements in the United States?

[Menem] Well, I believe that Argentine achievements are at the international level. The United States broadcasts to the entire world. Some countries, like Argentina, have achieved huge accomplishments in the political, economic, and social fields. This will have repercussions. I believe this is your job: to take to the streets and conduct a poll and then inform those who govern if we are or are not on the right path. I believe our work has been received very well by the Argentine community.

In the past, Argentina never had so much prestige as it does now.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] A little touch of frivolity to end. A prediction for tonight's soccer game.

[Menem] [laughs] Well, it is not frivolity. This is part of the sports policy. Well now, River Plate will win. Even if it loses, it will win. They cannot score more than one goal. Or, they will score two goals and we will score one. The goal average always plays a role. River Plate is playing very well and will win tonight.

[Autoron] I am Luis Autoron of (?EXPRESO SUR) of Quilmes. I want [words indistinct] because perhaps Argentina [words indistinct] important amounts. This visit [word indistinct] River Plate and I would like you to say a couple of words for these people who perhaps are the ones who are shouldering the economic program and who believe in your words. What are the prospects after this trip?

[Menem] Excellent. And those people who are shouldering the economic program are now aware that things are even better now. In the past, they shouldered it alone. Now, all the people are shouldering it. Therefore, they supported us on 11 August, 8 September, and 27 October. If not, we would not have won the elections.

Bolivia

Effects of Coca Eradication Program Analyzed

PY2111161891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1655 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Report by Mabel Azcui]

[Text] La Paz, 20 Nov (EFE)—The eradication of coca plantations, which provide the raw material for producing cocaine, has caused in the past four years the Gross Domestic Product [GDP] to drop by $1.075 billion. In addition, 29,453 jobs were lost.

Lorgio Rivera, chairman of the Senate Narcotics Commission, released a report by the Under Secretariat of Alternative Development on the economic impact caused by the reduction of coca crops, and on the prospects until 1996.

Bolivia, the world's second largest coca producer after Peru, had 58,400 hectares of coca plantations in 1990. These plantations produced 123,235 metric tons of coca. Of this, 10,000 tons were for legal consumption and the rest went for the illegal production of cocaine.

Following the international crisis that affected tin—which until that time was the main pillar of the Bolivian economy—and the structural adjustment imposed by the IMF, thousands of unemployed workers moved to the central Chapare region, where 80 percent of the coca farms are located.

The Bolivian and U.S. Governments signed agreements for gradually reducing coca crops in exchange for alternative development programs, and for $2,000 per hectare of eradicated coca plantation.

The report by the Undersecretariat of Alternative Development notes that between 1987 and September 1991, 16,658 hectares of coca crops and 88,133 square meters of nurseries were destroyed. It adds that the production

of these nurseries would have given rise to some 12,590 hectares of coca plantations.

The official report says: "The economic effects of this process, in terms of the loss of jobs, is approximately 29,453 posts; in terms of Gross Value of Product [Valor Bruto del Producto], losses affecting the production of coca and cocaine sulfate are estimated at $457 million; and in terms of the GDP, the loss amounts to $1.075 billion."

Rivera, who is a member of the ruling Movement of the Revolutionary Left, told journalists that the number of destroyed nurseries reflects "the Bolivian Government's strong will to eradicate the plantations."

Rivera alluded to a U.S. Government decision to freeze a $22 million disbursement for improving the balance of payments. The end of the freeze is conditional to compliance with the coca farm eradication target—7,000 hectares for this year—which was agreed upon in a bilateral accord signed in May 1990.

By 31 October 1991, the program had eradicated 4,775 hectares. Officials believe that it is very unlikely that 2,225 hectares will be eradicated in less than eight weeks, before 31 December, both because of weather conditions (the rainy season) and because of high coca prices and the peasant's strong resistance to destroy their farms, which are their only source of income.

The report adds: "It is estimated that the eradication of excessive and illegal coca farms between 1991 and 1996 will cause the loss of approximately 82,127 jobs, while Gross Product Value losses will amount to $124.7 million and Gross Domestic Product losses to $311.1 million."

According to information released by a private consulting firm, illegal sales of coca and cocaine in 1990 accounted for 43 percent of Bolivian exports, which amounted to $1.614 billion.

U.S. Labor Union Actions Criticized by Workers

PY2111150091 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Relay from Santa Cruz]

[Excerpt] As expected, Santa Cruz workers, consistent with the [words indistinct] during the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] regional congress, criticized yesterday the activities carried out by the American Institute for Free Labor Development through its local representative the Labor Union Agrarian Center [Centro Agrario Sindical].

The decision was made during a meeting of workers, the largest in recent times. COB leader Rufo Rivera attended the meeting in his capacity as observer.

The workers also decided to request that Congress and the Foreign Ministry investigate the activities being carried out by this U.S. labor union organization in Bolivia and asked that their members be expelled from the country.

Santa Cruz workers believe that independent trade union activities divide and corrupt workers by granting them additional salaries. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Collor Says Salary Vetoes 'Not Negotiable'

PY2111172091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor said today that the vetoes on the salary policy are not negotiable due to the economic situation of the country. He thus appealed to the opposition:

[Begin recording] I appeal to the opposition in Congress to ponder: please be present at the session, do not leave. Let us vote. We cannot be flexible on the issue of the vetoes. I would like to be flexible but the country cannot bear that. I cannot tolerate an irresponsible attitude prevailing over our finances. [end recording]

President Collor also said that the funding for municipalities will increase this month because tax collection has again improved.

Indian Land Decision Lauded by President Perez

PY2111130691 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez praised the Brazilian Government decision in favor of demarcation of Ianomami Indian lands. He said that this does not imply internationalizing the Amazon region, adding that the measure does not harm Brazilian sovereignty. [passage omitted]

The Venezuelan president has returned to his country.

*Governors' Disagreements With Collor Increasing

92SM0074B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19-21 Oct p 9

[Article by Claudio Kuck]

[Text] Brasilia—The climate at last Friday's meeting of 14 governors was quite different from the one prevailing at the meeting of 26 governors last 12 August during the commemoration of President Fernando Collor's birthday. Although those present continue to say they support the accord, they manifested many disagreements among themselves and with the government. They were unanimous only in their support of the Integrated Center for Child Welfare, which Collor dedicated.

Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho insisted—in his contacts with the president and other

colleagues—that no accord was possible without a resumption of economic growth. He presented four points that immediately received the unqualified support of Minas Gerais Governor Helio Garcia: lower interest rates, coordination of prices and wages, a level of government investment to bring stability to the economy, and tax reform. In the view of Rio Governor Leonel Brizola, "these are superficial proposals, and the important thing is to combat our international losses."

Fleury commented that the president—who had already heard similar complaints from the Sao Paulo governor about the recession and the crisis afflicting the Sao Paulo business community—seemed to have been sensitized "but not sufficiently." To complete the picture, Collor told several journalists upon his return to Planalto Palace that interest rates are an instrument of the government's effort to curb inflation. The president pointed out that the reduction of interest rates for agriculture was an important step, without indicating that equal treatment would be extended to other sectors of the economy.

Governor Fleury made several comments in conjunction with other governors by way of calling the government's attention to the fact that despite the austerity of its monetary policy, inflation continues to rise and companies are forced to lay off workers, as is now happening in the case of Brastemp, "because," he says, "people buy refrigerators on credit, and the high interest rates make it impossible for them to do so."

Fleury pointed out that the state of Sao Paulo alone has already lost $1.85 billion in revenue from collection of the ICM [Merchandise Distribution Tax]. He said most of the governors were saying that because of the impact of the recession on the collection of the IPI [Tax on Manufactured Products] and the income tax, "the Participation Fund of the States has already declined by 45 percent, thereby creating an impossible situation." He emphasized once again the need for a revival of development, "because," he said, "the 'emendao' [big amendment] is just one part of the plan to surmount the crisis."

When asked about this situation, the president commented that he saw no reason for such "gloomy talk." He also insisted that there is no "stagflation." He said businessmen are talking about inflation with recession while they are increasing prices on medicines, cement, and automobiles. He took the occasion to ask for suggestions, declaring that while the objectives of the businessmen in criticizing the economic model are not clear, "my objectives are indeed clear." And he concluded by saying, "Let the businessmen have their pessimism, but let them not infect our society with it."

Collor also said that the nation is performing well, except for those who have been accustomed to use the benevolence of the government for their own profit. These persons, the president said, should now "contribute their share of sacrifice." In an attempt to avoid the criticism coming from businessmen and governors, the Planalto plans to discuss objective topics such as privatization and renegotiation of the foreign debt. It insists that it has proposed a partnership, and that it is doing its part.

As for the privatization program, Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola believes that it requires better explanation, should not favor foreign groups, and should "be made accessible to the Brazilian people." He declared that the mass meeting in opposition to the sale at auction of Usiminas [Minas Gerais Iron and Steel Mills, Inc.] should only be held later, "for after all," he said, "the process is not a 100-meter race, inasmuch as Economy Minister Marcilio said that thereafter two state enterprises per month will be sold." The governor thus hinted that the mass meeting might be held even after the auction, "as one of a number of demonstrations in opposition to privatization."

Brizola acknowledged that the "emendao" in some respects could help the nation and the government lessen the impact of the crisis, but said that "in other respects it is very irrational." He believes that, in a sense, the proposal of constitutional amendments is just one more initiative that the government has taken, "such as the economic shocks and packages and the various economic policies that ultimately made the crisis worse." Nevertheless, he said, he was willing to continue his participation in the accord.

Governor Ciro Gomes (who this time was in attendance) commented that "it is essential to reach an understanding" but said he was not inspired to present any suggestions, "because the political dialogue with the government is defective and Collor is isolated, with the result that he is unable to be the effective political broker that the situation requires." Without disclosing any names, he said he had talked with people in the government "who appeared to be in despair over the dramatic situation." He also stated that some economic indices are being manipulated and that inflation already exceeds 20 percent.

Ciro also complained that whereas the president is isolated, Congress has been transformed into a "negative force" that is strangling the initiatives of the Executive Branch and thereby "creating a situation of institutional collapse." He wants to advance the date of the plebiscite on adoption of the parliamentary system, as proposed in the amendment of Senator Jose Richa, "but without detriment to the presidential mandate." On this subject, Collor commented that he has doubts about the constitutionality of this proposed early referendum but did not directly oppose it.

The president also appeared to be be pleased at Ciro Gomes's attitude in favor of the accord, "because," he said, "we all need to talk and to maintain the framework of a fluid, unobstructed, and open dialogue." He advocated a search for a common ground of coexistence, for "programs that can harmonize our desires with our political decisions." He did not view the meeting of the

governors at the inauguration of the first CIAC [Integrated Centers for Assistance to Children] as inaugurating a new era of understanding, "because," he said, "this is a moment of fraternization and festivity and, after all, we are always talking about understanding."

* Military Journal Editorial Criticizes Collor

92SM0078B Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Oct 91 p 1-4

[Text] An editorial in the September issue of the journal OMBRO A OMBRO [Shoulder to Shoulder]—a monthly magazine produced by military personnel—compares President Fernando Collor de Mello to an inept Formula 1 race car driver and asked: "Is he right or wrong? Should he be kept on as the lead driver for the team?"

Director and president of the magazine Army Col. Pedro Schirmer (Reserve), 56, denies that the question was posed as a way of advocating the impeachment of the president of Brazil, but says that this is the question being asked by the general public.

"I believe he should be retained as president. It would be retrogression to move backward. Now, impeachment is a legal solution, too. Isn't it in the little book (the Constitution)?" The colonel says he regrets having voted for Collor. To him, the president is "doing stupid things."

In his editorial, the colonel criticized administration proposals that have now been deleted from the "super amendment," such as an end to civil servant tenure, and asks for suspension of the plans to build "those utopian CIACs [Integrated Centers for Assistance to Children]" He compares Collor to a race driver who "tends to change gears at the wrong time" and "who performs dangerous maneuvers and threatens to aim the car at the crowd of spectators."

Schirmer has been publishing OMBRO A OMBRO for three and a half years now. Published in Rio de Janeiro, its average circulation is 10,000 copies. He claims a core readership of 8,000, "most of them subscribers," living mainly in Rio and in the Federal District.

The magazine, he says, is distributed free of charge in Congress and in military organizations. Schirmer stated that the publication is funded from subscriptions (5,000 cruzeiros a year) and advertising revenues.

PMDB Expels Parana Governor for 'Slander'

PY2111141891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] national board decided by a 108 to four vote to expel Parana governor Roberto Requiao from the PMDB. Only one board member abstained. Board members agreed to a recommendation by party legal adviser Jalhes Pirilo, who recommended that Requiao be expelled and that his membership be annulled.

Pirilo noted that Requiao offended party executive commission members, whom he called opportunists, scoundrels, and ridiculous people who support corruption. Requiao said that board members do not observe standards of dignity and morality.

The recommendation adds that, besides offending and slandering the commission members, Requiao violated an ethical principle whereby PMDB members are expected to observe loyalty and fraternity among fellow party members.

* FIESP Notes Deepening Recession Signs

92SM0074D Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19-21 Oct 91 pp 1, 8

[Article by Jose Casado]

[Text] Sao Paulo—Manufacturing firms traditionally record "peaks" in terms of production, hours worked, and personnel hired in the month of October, so that they can fill the orders they receive from commercial firms, who customarily sell more in the last quarter of the year. That is not happening this year, however. On the contrary: the indicators are headed downward.

The indicator that most accurately, and most rapidly, reflects this worsening of the recessionary process is the level of employment—the difference between hirings and dismissals. Preliminary estimates indicate that Sao Paulo industry—which accounts for almost half of Brazil's total industrial output—is expected to close out October with approximately 19,000 fewer persons employed than in September.

This forecast by the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP)—if borne out—would represent a drop of approximately 1 percent in the level of industrial employment and would be the first such drop in five consecutive years, during which the number of hirings consistently exceeded the number of dismissals.

The employment picture tends to worsen in November, according to businessmen such as FIESP Vice President Carlos Eduardo Uchoa Fagundes.

November is the month when industrial production traditionally begins to slow down, and this deceleration gradually intensifies until carnival.

November is also the month during which many of the manufacturers of durable consumer goods and capital goods conclude their wage negotiations. The first day of the month, for example, marks the end of the period of employment stability (which began 30 days before the data-base of the collective labor contract) for a group of 450,000 metalworkers in the area of the capital of Sao Paulo State alone.

Beginning in the second half of August, industrial sales—which are the basis of urban employment—have fallen precipitously. "It is an atypical situation," comments Uchoa Fagundes. "Historically, the level of industrial

activity heads downhill after November, so that the outlook is dismaying, to say the least."

There are possible alternatives, according to businessmen such as Paulo Cunha of the Ultra Group. They involve introducing some flexibility into monetary policy, or "more precisely a reduction in interest rates for the final borrower—the industrial or commercial firm."

There are indications that the government is preparing some initiatives in this direction. This at least is the impression that some state governors—including Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho of Sao Paulo—received in talking with President of the Republic Fernando Collor de Mello and with the economist Francisco Gros, president of the Central Bank.

"They have shown themselves to be sensitive in this area," said Fleury, who met with both men Friday in Brasilia.

The very same impression was received by CNI [National Confederation of Industry] President Albano Franco. "Minister Marcilio (Marques Moreira, of Economy) told me that the government will introduce some flexibility into interest-rate policy within the next week or 10 days. We hope this will occur, and next Monday we shall transmit some suggestions to the government."

The government's action, in the view of these businessmen, should be centered immediately on what economists call the "fiscal wedge" in setting interest rates. That is to say, reduce onerous taxes such as the IOF [Financial Operations Tax] and contributions such as those to Finsocial [Social Investment Fund].

"The problem," says Paulo Cunha by way of summation, "lies in the enormous difference between the rate of interest paid by banks to depositors and the rate of interest paid by borrowers. The bank pays its investors 27 percent real interest per year to obtain deposits, which becomes 80 percent real interest per year paid by the borrower, representing the bank's "spread" plus the "fiscal wedge." Because of this cost, the manufacturing firm must reduce its production in order to avoid the need for working capital. And you see the result: we have a recession accompanied by a rise in prices."

Concentrated progress is accordingly being made as a result of the strong political pressure being put on the Collor administration by an authentic "united front" that has been organized and activated recently by state governors, political party leaders, businessmen, and trade unionists who are temporarily united by the impact of the recession.

The fact that the Central Bank has not acted in recent days to raise interest rates very much is already one result of this, according to the economist Roberto Macedo, special secretary for Economic Affairs, in a conversation with the publisher Maria Clara R. M. do Prado. "There is only one course to take now," he said: "that of fiscal adjustments, and we shall make them in order to achieve growth."

There is a lack of priorities, because the recession is deepening and inflation is increasing. That is the complaint of governors such as Jose Agripino Maia of Rio Grande do Norte. "We are experiencing a crisis, and in a crisis the important thing is to have priorities—and that is what is not being done by the Federal Government," he says.

Maia, like the other governors of the Northeast, is suffering from the effects of a tragic drought in the Northeastern interior; from the effects of the recession on his tax revenue; and from the effects of inflation on his expenditures. On Friday he received a communication from Collor, who wants to get them together this week to discuss emergency alternatives.

Other governors such as Fleury are devoting themselves to preparing separate proposals, such as the fixing of prices and wages.

Collor basically is dependent on their help, for they are influential with the two largest delegations in the Congress, that of the PFL [Liberal Front Party] and PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party].

* Poll Reflects Attitudes Toward Asuncion Treaty

92SM0078A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19-21 Oct 91 p 6

[Report by Sao Paulo correspondent Nora Gonzalez]

[Text] The sad state of readiness to compete exhibited by the Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market] member countries, and the absence of symmetry among the economic policies of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay are likely to be the main obstacles to be overcome in implementing the Treaty of Asuncion. At the same time, businessmen from the smaller countries have significant misgivings about the competitiveness and the scale of production of their neighbors, and are frankly worried about being gobbled up by the others.

Those are some of the conclusions of a survey conducted by the auditing and consulting firm of Coopers & Lybrand among about 150 companies in the four countries (60 in Brazil, 60 in Argentina, and the rest divided between Uruguay and Paraguay). Only private firms were interviewed in the survey, which covered 18 business sectors.

Most respondents felt that the industries that would benefit most from the treaty will be foods, vehicles, tourism, finance, capital markets, and informatics, in that order. However, although the outlook is optimistic, there is no spontaneous desire to adapt to the norms of the treaty. According to Dan Lavacek, a director of Coopers and the top executive in charge of the survey, the Brazilian firms still have a good reputation in other

countries. Forty-eight percent of the respondents believe that Brazil is fully ready to operate in a competitive market, 48 percent believe that is partially true, and only 4 percent said it was not true. Argentina ranks second in terms of responses to this question, with 36 percent, 29 percent, and 35 percent, while opinions on Paraguay and Uruguay were less positive, at 16 percent, 57 percent, and 27 percent (Paraguay), and 5 percent, 76 percent, and 19 percent (Uruguay.)

Fears

The multinationals that have subsidiaries in the Mercosur member countries were the most optimistic of the respondents, but there is always consistency between the competitive image the firms have of their own country and that which is attributed to them by business leaders in the other three nations. Oddly, Paraguay is the only country where the internal image is better than the external one. Uruguay is the one viewed most positively by others.

"The poll was taken between 15 July and 15 August of this year, and perhaps the results would be different now, because the psychological perception of Brazil has deteriorated, while that of Argentina has improved," Lavacek noted.

Fears about government instability were quite perceptible.

According to the poll, the rules of the treaty that permit eliminating macroeconomic differences have still not been fully defined, having been left to be established within the government realm.

Problems

The majority of the respondents, (47 percent) [as published], believe that the accord will benefit the countries of the region, while 34 percent think it will help integrate Latin America and 19 percent said it will help integrate the Americas. Geographical fears are re-emerging and Brazilian and Argentine businessmen would prefer that the agreement be an intermediate step in the integration of all of Latin America, while Paraguay and Uruguay would prefer that the Mercosur not expand beyond its original boundaries.

Cited as problems common to the four countries were factors such as: shipping costs, the tax burden, labor costs, and manpower productivity.

* Soviet Delegation Discusses Financial Market

92SM0074C Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 19-21 Oct 91 p 21

[Article by Angela Bittencourt]

[Text] Sao Paulo—Soviet financial experts are looking toward Brazil. A delegation of 23 representatives of Sherbank—the Bank of Moscow—is getting ready to come to Brazil in a few days to take part in a meeting whose central topic of discussion will be the operational practices of the financial and capital market in Brazil.

The Soviets are not coming here by accident. Brazil was identified as the market most resembling the Soviet market from the standpoint of regulation. The banking delegation realizes that the fact that the Brazilian economy has lived with constant inflation for almost 30 years can serve as a good model for its domestic economy, inasmuch as the projections of the analysts indicate that the USSR can live with annual inflation rates of approximately 250 percent per year beginning in 1992.

The meeting with members of the Brazilian financial community is scheduled to take place from 29 October through 1 November at the Sao Paulo Business Center and is being organzied by Soyuz Trading, Agrimisa Trade, and Raphic Communications.

Controversial Topics

During these four days the Soviets will discuss—with renowned Brazilian experts—topics that are controversial in Brazil such as the structure of real estate credit, the operation of investment funds, the organization of institutional investors, the implementation of mechanisms for attracting capital, and the use of credit cards to facilitate commercial transactions.

Company Privatizations Called 'Premature'

PY2111140091 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The Aeronautics Ministry believes that it is premature to consider the privatization of EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and INFRAERO [Brazilian Airport Support Enterprise]. Advisers to Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro claimed that these enterprises should be made more healthy in order to be attractive for the market.

The Ministry's social communications center reported that no studies were made for privatization of either EMBRAER or INFRAERO.

A proposal for privatization of the two companies was made by BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] President Eduardo Modiano, who said that the studies will be submitted to President Collor within the next few days.

* Helibras To Produce Dauphin Helicopters

92SM0078F Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese22 Oct 91 p 21

[Article by Jose de Castro]

[Text] Belo Horizonte—Within eight months, Helibras will begin building Dauphin helicopters at its Itajuba plant. The planes can carry 14 persons, including the two

pilots. This information came from the company's managing director Bruno Boulnois, who added that the average cost of each helicopter will be $5 million (2.96 billion cruzeiros at the commercial exchange rate). This plane is already being produced by Aerospatiale in China and in France.

In Brazil, Helibras makes a military version of the Dauphin—the Panther—and the Brazilian Army has ordered 36 of them. Introduced seven years ago by Aerospatiale, the Dauphin is now in its third upgrade. Production of its most modern version began a little over a year ago. According to Boulnois, the widespread acceptance of the Dauphin (more than 500 are now flying) on the world market proves that it is competitive.

Boulnois believes the Dauphin will have some advantages in competing with the American Bell helicopters in transporting personnel to the offshore oil drilling platforms, and will offer gains in technology and operability. Another potential market is the corporate market. The VIP configuration (six passengers and two pilots) offers top executives maximum comfort, the Helibras director claimed.

The Dauphin is a two-engine aircraft with a starflex rotor head, four blades of compound material, a streamlined tail rotor, and a retractable landing gear. "It is the best performer in the 12-seat helicopter category and has the best cost/benefit ratio," Boulnois said.

* Bracel Opens Fiber Optic Plant in Sao Paulo

92SM0078E Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese19-21 Oct 91 p 17

[Article by Sao Paulo correspondent Marinete Veloso]

[Text] Bracel Condutores Electricos Ltda., a manufacturer of telephone wires and cables for telecommunications, inaugurated its fiber optics plant last Friday, a facility in which $8 million was invested. Company president Jorge Francisco Salomao said the factory has a total production capacity of 240 km of fiber per day, but will initially make only 40 km of fiber. "We do not expect to make a profit immediately, just to master the technology," he said, adding that there is a huge market potential in Brazil to be exploited during the coming years. According to Joel Rauber, national communications secretary, who attended the ceremony, the Brazilian market could require 100,000 km of fiber optics next year.

So far, however, the government has been purchasing fiber optics made by ABC Xtal. Bracel is waiting for government approval of its product, which should come in the next several days and would certify it for sale to Telebras [Brazilian Telecommunications, Inc.] concessionaires. The prices of the fiber optics to be produced by Bracel were not revealed. Salomao noted that the prices charged by the major products vary markedly from country to country, and in inverse relationship to the technological performance of the buyer. "The maintenance of technological and industrial ability in this country is absolutely essential to the telecommunications economy, since that is the only way we can keep the market from being always at the mercy of the major international manufacturers," warned Salomao. Bracel, which had $30 million in sales last year, hopes for $36 million in earnings in 1991.

Announcement By End of October

The announcement of the opening of a competition to supply mobile telephones to Sao Paulo State will be published by the end of this month, reported National Communications Secretary Joel Rauber during his visit to the new facility inaugurated by Bracel for production of fiber optics on an industrial scale. According to Rauber, the possibility that the administration will be sued by political parties that question the constitutionality of allowing private enterprise to operate the service can only be evaluated, in practice, after the announcement has been published. "We are protected by the Constitution," Rauber assured.

According to Rauber, there is a worldwide trend toward privatizing telecommunications services. "It is the user who gains from competition between private and state enterprise," he said. Rauber also pointed out that the combination of three technologies—cellular, digital, and fiber optics—will lead to a policy change regarding the organizational structure of the telecommunications sector.

* Air Minister Seeks Funds for MECB

92SM0078B Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 12-14 Oct 91 p 10

[Article by Alcantara correspondent Luiza Pastor]

[Text] The Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA) and the Ministry of Aeronautics have spared no effort to try to persuade legislators on the Joint Budget Committee of the federal Chamber of Deputies to increase the appropriation for the Brazilian Complete Space Program (MECB). According to the figures, the budget proposal forwarded to the Congress by the Ministry of the Economy gives the program—provided there are no hitches—a paltry 8.7 billion cruzeiros. The proposed amendment distributed to the legislators during their visit last Friday to the Alcantara Launch Center (CLA) in Maranhao Statedasks for 59.4 billion cruzeiros.

Seventeen of the 21 members of the chamber's budget and defense committee accepted the invitation from EMFA and the air ministry to visit facilities at the base, which was initially expected to cost $215 million but whose price tag has now been upped to $259 million. Of that total, $115 million have already been invested, leaving $144 million needed to complete the work. As soon as the base is ready, the Ministry of Aeronautics hopes to be able to join, on an equal footing, the few other members of the satellite launching club and to

promote the privileged location of the Alcantara site (two degrees south of the equator) in a battle for a market valued at $600 to $800 billion between now and the year 2000.

Various alternatives for making it feasible to market the Alcantara space base are being studied, such as setting up a company specifically for that purpose since the CLA cannot legally engage in such activity. The basic idea outlined by Aeronautics Minister Socrates de Castro Monteiro is that the company would be funded by Brazilian or foreign private capital. "It's just that we cannot presentnly consider having to manufacture products for the aerospace business, or having the state participate in this commercial activity. Rather than a sort of Embraer Aerospacial, what we need right now is a space infrastructure, a services company, but one that is privately capitalized," the minister explained. He mentioned Orbital Sain Corp (OSC) as one of the firms that has already expressed interest in participating along with some Brazilian businessman.

A VTT (Test Telecommand Vehicle) rocket was launched during the congressional visit. It reached an apogee of 6,868 meters in about 75 seconds before falling into the sea. This operation, known as "Lightning," is part of the base's operations program and is intended to permit technical and operational evaluation of the modifications made in the first phase of the technical support for CLA's computer system.

* Informatics Law Facilitates Joint Ventures

92SM0074A Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 25 Oct 91 p 14

[Article by Heloisa Magalhaes from Rio de Janeiro and Ana Luiza Mahlmeister from Sao Paulo]

[Text] Joint ventures in the informatics sector will be able to have not just 30 percent but as much as 49 percent of their capital stock under the control of foreign partners, and it is no longer necessary to submit the plans for such an enterprise to the National Council for Informatics and Automation (Conin). These are some of the principal features of the new Informatics Law that was approved last Wednesday by President Collor.

Because they involve the manufacture of products, however, these plans will continue until 1992 to be subject to analysis by the Secretariat of Science and Technology. The manufacturer "will continue to be the prisoner of bureaucracy," warns Attorney Georges Fischer, an expert in this field and representative of the Brazilian Informatics Law Association (ABDI) on the National Council for Informatics and Automation. "However," he says, "there will be no written rules concerning the obligation to export, for example, although for one more year certain requirements will continue in effect, such as the requirement that the Brazilian partner be the owner of the technology."

Flavio Sehn, president of Edisa [Digital Electronics, Inc.] Informatics, thinks the article that allows multiple incentives to be offered to informatics companies that locate in the Manaus Free Zone is bad for the informatics sector.

"Because of the exemption from taxes," Sehn declares, "the informatics companies will feel obliged to look into the possibility of going to Manaus, all of which could result in a rush to the region even though this new strategy will not enable the companies to become more competitive."

On the basis of this determination, Sehn believes it is important for the secretariats of finance of the individual states to study this new variable and consider offering incentives to offset the attraction of Manaus.

Under the provisions of Article 16—which the president vetoed and according to Sehn was not good for the informatics sector—the introduction of new technologies that automate production processes would have had to be analyzed by a joint commission consisting equally of employees and employers. "The Informatics Law does encourage dialogue," Sehn declares, "because employees cannot be viewed as enemies."

One of the positive features of the law, according to Sehn, is the incentives for joint ventures. "The obstacles to these partnerships have been removed," he explains, "and this could encourage greater investment in Brazil, by allowing companies from other sectors of the economy to participate in the informatics sector."

Another noteworthy clause provides for the extension of tax incentives to any company a majority of whose capital stock is Brazilian-owned, whether the company is the product of a joint venture or is beginning to operate in the informatics sector. The bill sent to the president of the Republic established that only those companies that were already active in the sector during the past two years (1989 and 1990) would have access to the benefits.

The incentives that Brazilian-owned companies will receive without the need for prior approval of their plans by the Secretariat of Science and Technology are as follows: 1) A 50 percent reduction in the income tax owed at the source on the amount invested in research and development; 2) Exemption from the Tax on Manufactured Products (IPI) (from 10 to 15 percent) [as published]; 3) Preferential treatment in direct or indirect sales to government entities (that is to say, preference over foreign companies); 4) Priority access to public financing (through Finep [Funding Authority for Studies and Projects] or BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development]); and 5) An incentive to encourage capitalization, namely, firms that invest in informatics companies will be able to deduct 1 percent of the income tax owed.

One controversy that is already emerging in the informatics sector relates to the future of Conin. There are those who believe that Conin no longer has a role to play,

inasmuch as the president of the Republic has removed the council's responsibility for analyzing each of the proposed joint ventures, and because responsibility for the analysis of plans for the manufacture of products now rests with the Department of Informatics and Automation (Depin), an organ of the Secretariat of Science and Technology.

There are those who believe that because the presidential veto eliminated the clause dealing with the persons and entities taking part in Conin, it should also be construed that the council itself no longer exists.

But the president himself, in explaining his vetoes, makes it quite clear that Conin will continue "to perform its function of advising the Secretariat of Science and Technology."

President Collor also vetoed the proposal of the legislative branch to give Conin a new structure, whereby in place of the secretaries of the cabinet ministries the ministers themselves would be members of the council, and by way of compensation there would be 12 civilian representatives on the council instead of the present eight.

In his veto message, the president regards the proposed structure as inadequate from the standpoint of parity, because, he says, "the government would lose its majority." He also cited the very large number of members that would sit on the council, and said that this—together with the enhanced hierarchical level of the membership—would make meetings difficult. Moreover, the veto message declares that the proposal by the legislative branch to alter the composition of the council is unconstitutional, inasmuch as that organ was not mentioned in the bill that was sent to the National Congress.

Conin accordingly maintains its previous composition: one representative of the Secretariat of Science and Technology of the Federal Government, and one representative each of the national secretariats of the economy, finance, planning, communications, transportation, labor, higher education, technological education, and foreign policy, plus the chief of staff of the armed forces.

The civilian members of the council are: one representative each of the Association of Data Processing Professionals (APPD), National Confederation of Industry (CNI), Brazilian Computer Society (SBC), Brazilian Informatics Law Association (ABDI), National Society of Users of Computers and Telecommunications Equipment (Sucesu-Nacional), Brazilian Association of Computer and Computer Peripherals Manufacturers (Abicomp), National Federation of Journalists (Fenaj), and Brazilian Software Association (ABES).

In order to draw up a list of members of Conin, the government will have to send a bill to Congress. Because it is a council whose functions are defined by law, a new table of organization must also be established by law.

[Box, p 14]

Highlights of the Bill

Rio de Janeiro (By Heloisa Magalhaes)—For informatics companies and companies that desire to operate in that sector for the first time, the Informatics Law contains the following new features:

1. It provides greater freedom for the formation of joint ventures. As much as 49 percent of the capital stock may be foreign-owned, and there is no longer a requirement to draw up a plan or to ask Conin for permission to create the enterprise.

2. It continues—until October 1992—the requirement that plans for the manufacture of products be submitted to the Secretariat of Science and Technology. Only those products for which the plans have been approved will be purchased directly by the Federal Government and by the state enterprises.

3. Products manufactured in Brazil will be purchased by the government in preference to imported products.

* Antarctic Program Receives Funds From CNPQ

92SM0078D Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 11 Oct 91 p 11

[Article by Sao Paulo correspondent Rosa Webster]

[Text] The Brazilian Antarctic Program (Proantar) has received 240 million cruzeiros from its total appropriation of 555 million (or $1 million) promised to it earlier by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPQ). On its tenth voyage to the Commandante Mario Ferraz Research Station, scheduled for 11 November, the vessel "Barao de Tefe" will carry 36 scientists from various Brazilian institutions.

The researchers will continue the studies begun in 1984, when the Brazilian station at King George Island was inaugurated. The National Institute of Space Research (INPE), for example, which has been doing experiments to study the composition of gases and particles in the atmosphere at the last site in the world where there is virtually no pollution, will launch balloons to measure the ozone layer on this next trip.

This layer protects the earth from harmful rays of the sun, and Antarctica turns out to be the perfect laboratory for establishing parameters and standards to use as a basis for comparison. "There, we can more easily separate the natural compounds from possible layers of polluted air coming from the South American continent, explained Enio Bueno Pereira, coordinator of the atmospheric science department of Proantar.

He added that the program's contribution to weather forecasting is still rather limited, even though INPE maintains two meteorological stations in Antarctica—one at the Commandante Ferraz base itself and the other, a remote station, on Elephant Island.

"To be of help to the meteorological service in Brazil, we would need more sophisticated instruments and larger, better-equipped, stations," he explained.

Krill, a small shrimp-like crustacean that is considered an important food because of its high content of concentrated protein, is also being studied. During the first Brazilian expedition to Antarctica in 1984, the team from the Oceanographic Institute of the University of Sao Paulo (IO/USP) began to do research on krill.

The study will be more detailed on the next voyage, because researchers want to become thoroughly familiar with the role that the crustacean plays in feeding species on the Antarctic Continent.

"All the animals feed on krill, because the ecosystem is relatively simple, and includes few animals," explained researcher Vicente Gomes of the IO team. The group is headed by Professor Phan Van Ngan, who has already participated in six Proantar voyages.

Gomes adds that the next stage of the study will also include the Amphipoda, another species of crustacean that is important in the Antarctic food chain. The difficulty in making krill viable as a food is due to the high concentration of fluorine it carries in its shell. Removing that shell is a slow, expensive process, since it has to be done on site.

The voyage by the Brazilian researchers was threatened with cancellation because the CNPQ appropriation for Proantar was not released until this week, just over a month from the date the Barao de Tefe is to sail.

Argentine Rebel Charged With Leading Uprising

PY2211010891 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Report by Isabela Assumpcao]

[Excerpts] A former Argentine guerrilla was arrested by the federal police in Sao Paulo. He was charged with leading the La Tablada uprising, one of the most violent in Argentine history. [passage omitted]

Claudio Daniel Mussi was charged by the Argentine courts with being one of the leaders of the La Tablada uprising. Therefore, in 1989 the Argentine Government asked for his preventive custody with the goal of extraditing him.

Claudio, his wife, and his two daughters have been living here in Sao Paulo for two years. He has a permanent foreigner's visa for Brazil and was registered as a refugee by the the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office.

Arrested yesterday when he voluntarily presented himself, Mussi is now being held here under the custody of the federal police.

Mussi's attorney will first file a petition for reconsideration so that Mussi can face the extradition trial in freedom. When the case is heard by the supreme court, the defense will claim that the La Tablada uprising was a political action and, on this point, the Brazilian Constitution is clear: It does not allow the extradition of foreigners charged with political crimes.

Chile

Retirement of Brigadier Espinoza 'Not Foreseen'

PY2211005491 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The Army has issued a communique stating that the Army has not considered the retirement of Brigadier Pedro Espinoza Bravo, who is currently under arrest for the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier. The communique was issued by the Quillota Armored Cavalry School where Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet met with the commanders of the Navy, Air Force, and Carabineros director general.

The communique reads: In the face of many media reports on the possible retirement of Brig. Espinoza, the public must learn that within the institutional plans, his retirement is not foreseen, much less since he is undergoing a legal process in which the sentence has not yet been issued.

U.S. Military Technology Sales to Iraq Denied

PY2111181291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Businessman Carlos Cardoen today denied reports, which he called malicious, published in U.S newspapers accusing him of passing U.S. military technology information to Iraq during the Persian Gulf war. He said:

[Begin recording] I believe that this is part of an international campaign that seeks to discredit Chilean technology. This campaign is being conducted by groups who lost out because of our competition in the past and who now hope to discredit us. [end recording]

Cardoen said that the campaign is being conducted by those jealous of the fact that Third World countries are beginning to develop their own technology and find their own path in the world.

He added that instead of taking technology from the United States, Chile has taken technology to that country. He mentioned the Chilean helicopter that is now in the United States, and all the Chilean patents that are registered in that country.

Cardoen said that it is absurd and ridiculous to say that U.S. technology was obtained despite the Kennedy Amendment, and that the accusation is stupid and unfounded.

Lautaro Youth Movement Attacks Municipal Offices

PY2111210891 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Six individuals who identified themselves as members of the Lautaro Youth Movement held up the offices of the municipal sanitation department of Estacion Central.

The event occurred at about 1000 this morning when the individuals attacked municipal employees; sprayed the office with gasoline; and then stole the car owned by Mayor Felipe Palacios. Lorena Lopez, municipal press secretary, said that the criminals wore ski masks and carried automatic weapons. [passage omitted]

Mayor Palacios said that the subversives are destabilizing agents who do not value the tranquillity of the people. He said that his office incurred three attacks in two weeks. [passage omitted]

* RN, UDI Leaders Discuss Party Differences

92SM0061A Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 16 Oct 91 pp E12-E13

[Interview with Andres Allamand, president of National Renewal Party, and Jovino Novoa, acting president of Independent Democratic Union, by Victor Perez-Cotapos R.; place and date not given]

[Text] They have been in the news for some time, although not exactly owing to their similarities, but rather their differences. Hardly a day goes by without mutual criticism, attacks, or discreditations, sometimes over trivial matters. Some claim that they have an "equal hatred." According to others, the "bombardments" are merely verbal, but they are finally smoking the "peace pipe." Now, with this business of electoral pacts, National Renewal [RN] and Independent Democratic Union [UDI] have different approaches, for a change. So to avoid misinterpretation, ERCILLA asked the same questions of the presidents of both camps, Andres Allaman, of RN, and Jovino Novoa, substituting for Julio Dittborn, who is out of the country.

RN: Allamand

[Perez-Cotapos] Why is RN attacking UDI? Could you give at least three reasons?

[Allamand] UDI and RN are different parties. We do not think alike, and hence discrepancies are inevitable. We must learn to convey them, because the way that they are being expressed now is a boomerang for both parties, for the right of center and the opposition.

[Perez-Cotapos] If one assumes that you share similar principles, how do you explain those attacks?

[Allamand] There have been major strategic differences. In the past, UDI advocated the presidential plebiscite, and we favored free elections. UDI initially rejected the constitutional reform of 1989; we promoted it. During this government, UDI was concerned about appearing as a party; we were concerned about ensuring the transition, and guaranteeing political, economic, and social stability. Our goal was to attract votes from our adversaries; that of UDI was to stengthen itself within our sector. We haven't interpreted the issue of "principles" in the same way either. In UDI's view, agreeing to a tax reform (moderate and temporary) meant attacking their principles. In our opinion, expending an effort for solidarity and, incidentally, bolstering the social market economy under democracy, meant being consistent with them.

[Perez-Cotapos] How many of those attacks are based on mutual personal discreditation, vestiges of the old split that don't seem to have healed yet?

[Allamand] Too many.

[Perez-Cotapos] Do you agree with the uneasiness felt by many civilian sympathizers, as well as party activists, who consider positions such as these genuine political suicide?

[Allamand] I myself have mentioned political "harakiri." That is why RN, despite all the difficulties, is bent on surmounting the problems and building unity.

[Perez-Cotapos] Beyond talk, on what concrete bases would a real will for unity be achieved?

[Allamand] Today, unity is expressed in the will to: 1) construct an broad bloc that will agglutinate the opposition and unify the action of the right of center parties; 2) maintain the binomial electoral system; 3) facilitate the expeditious incorporation of independents on the lists for the coming municipal elections; and 4) devise a joint political plan to defeat the Coalition in 1993.

[Perez-Cotapos] Would humility, which many don't consider a practice of your party, be included among those bases?

[Allamand] Flexibility and magnanimity are necessary in politics. We have shown that we possess both. And where magnanimity is concerned, no one should forget that in 1989 RN waived a legitimate presidential candidacy of its own to ensure the unity of the right of center.

[Perez-Cotapos] Is it possible that, based on mere electoral calculations, a smaller party, such as the Center-Center Union [UCC], might induce RN and UDI to fight?

[Allamand] The problem is different. We have tried, unsuccessfully, to make UDI and UCC stop their pitched battle. UDI has now flatly rejected UCC; but Julio Dittborn, UDI's president, remarked in February that he saw "no obstacle to UCC's participating and becoming incorporated into" our pact. UCC, for its part, has added obstacles to this when it proposes to include parties currently supporting the government.

[Perez-Cotapos] There are some who claim that the conflicts between RN and UDI are merely political "posturing," but that when it is "time for a showdown," they will "calm down" and unite, as has already occurred in the congressional elections. What is your opinion?

[Allamand] "Posturing" my foot! Even the blind realize that only the Coalition is benefiting from the difficulties between UDI and RN.

[Perez-Cotapos] If RN and UDI don't forge their unity, how do you view the future of RN in the light of the municipal elections and, subsequently, the presidential ones?

[Allamand] Unity will be achieved. What is doubtful is the extent. In any case, I have great confidence in the leadership role that RN will continue to pay in Chilean politics. Our political philosophy is based on three fundamental ideas: the force of responsible exercise of liberties; the state's subsidiary role of solidarity; and the conviction that democracy is the only scenario that allows for full human and social development.

[Perez-Cotapos] Are you willing to assume your full responsibility for the political success or failure of your party, especially the latter?

[Allamand] One always has to assume responsibilities. I have never doubted the success and correct orientation of our policies, transcending the adversities inherent in any activity.

[Perez-Cotapos] What advice would you give to UDI for attaining success?

[Allamand] None in public. I only hope that they won't continue to confuse who their adversaries are.

UDI: Novoa

[Perez-Cotapos] UDI is not attacking RN. At one time we had to defend ourselves against attacks from that party, which attempted to obtain the supremacy of our sector. But that is by now a thing of the past.

[Perez-Cotapos] If one presumes that you share similar principles, how would those attacks be explained?

[Novoa] There are no attacks. What there have sometimes been are differences regarding possible political positions. But it is understandable that parties with a certain affinity in their principles may hold different political positions.

[Perez-Cotapos] How many of those attacks are based on mutual personal discreditation, vestiges of the old split that don't seem to have healed yet?

[Novoa] I insist that there are no attacks from UDI's standpoint.

[Perez-Cotapos] Do you agree with the uneasiness felt by many civilian sympathizers, as well as party activists, who consider positions such as these genuine political suicide?

[Novoa] There is no uneasiness whatever among our activists, because they clearly understand the UDI position, and the essence of our definition as a party. There shouldn't be any uneasiness among those who aren't activists either. The fact that our party wants to follow a course of its own, representing a reaffirmation of our values and principles, and a renewed commitment to our own political style, shouldn't be cause for anyone's uneasiness. A course of our own doesn't exclude pacts with similar political sectors, such as RN.

[Perez-Cotapos] Beyond talk, on what concrete bases would a real will for unity be achieved?

[Novoa] First, respect for each party's individual identity. Second, equal treatment between the two parties. And third, the understanding that unity or alliances must be achieved on the basis of principles and programs, rather than mere electoral calculations.

[Perez-Cotapos] Would humility, which many don't consider a practice of your party, be included among those bases?

[Novoa] This is the first time that I've heard the opinion that our party doesn't practice humility.

[Perez-Cotapos] It is possible that, based on mere electoral calculations, a smaller party, such as the Center-Center Union, might induce URI and RN to fight?

[Novoa] RN formally requested the incorporation of UCC, Francisco Javier Errazuriz's party, into our pact. We replied that we would not agree to incude it, because with have no affinity with that party nor with the person controlling it. For the present, this disagreement has postponed our talks about the pact. But I'm sure that they will be resumed.

[Perez-Cotapos] There are some who claim that the conflicts between UDI and RN are merely political "posturing," but that when it is "time for a showdown," they will "calm down" and unite, as has already occurred in the congressional elections. What is your opinion?

[Novoa] This is also the first time I've heard that claim. It would be very foolish to disagree merely out of a desire for political posturing. There are differences between our parties, political disagreements on points which in most instances are not based on principles. This means that, when electoral processes have to be confronted, those differences will be surmounted.

[Perez-Cotapos] If UDI and RN do not forge their unity, how do you view the future of UDI in the light of the municipal elections and, subsequently, the presidential ones?

[Novoa] I have already spoken about the future: We aspire to be this country's principal political force, and we believe that we shall achieve this, because we have the correct ideas. We also have the experience of having participated in a government, such as the military one, which has unquestionably been the most productive of this century. Furthermore, we have the people, the youth, and the strength to achieve this.

[Perez-Cotapos] Are you willing to assume your full responsibility for the political success or failure of your party, especially the latter?

[Novoa] Of course, I have always assumed responsibility for my decisions and, generally speaking, the UDI militants have assumed it. We have always done so, although sometimes, from a short-term perspective, the costs for our party may have seemed high, and at times this has been reflected in animosity toward us. We don't go along with the tide, but rather act in keeping with our principles, even though it may not be interpreted that way at the time.

[Perez-Cotapos] What advice would you give to RN for attaining success?

[Novoa] I don't consider it proper to be giving advice to other political camps. Each one should be more concerned with developing its plans in the best possible manner, and in harmony with the others.

Colombia

Government Joins El Salvador in War on Drugs

PA2111204791 Paris AFP in Spanish 2140 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 19 Nov (AFP)—The Presidential Palace Press Secretariat announced that on 19 November the Colombian and El Salvadoran Governments signed important bilateral agreements that cover exchanging judiciary information and cooperation against drug trafficking. The agreements were signed by the respective ministers of foreign relations, Luis Fernando Jaramillo and Jose Manuel Pacas.

Pacas, who is on an official visit in Santa Fe de Bogota, said that these agreements include exchanging judiciary information and general cooperation between the authorities and are very important for the countries confronting these criminal actions.

He recalled that a cargo of three tons of cocaine (the largest one registered so far) was seized recently in his country, showing that Central America is becoming a bridge for drug trafficking due to its fragile and weak economies.

The visiting foreign minister also said that his government feels Colombia's support for the cease-fire with the Salvadoran guerrillas is "decisive" for consolidating peace. Pacas pointed out that the Colombian experience in the demobilization of the guerrilla groups has been very valuable for El Salvador.

"The fact that there is room for all ideological trends is the negation of a guerrilla struggle and, with a nondiscriminatory democracy system, any violence is unjustified," the foreign minister said, concluding that his government is very optimistic that it will achieve the final peace agreement before the end of 1991.

Annoyance With Venezuela on Rebels' Trip Denied

PA2211040791 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Nov 91 pp 1A, 6A

[Excerpt] The Colombian Government was aware of the trip that members of the Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CG) made to Costa Rica. It was denied that the government is annoyed with the Venezuelan Government because it authorized the subversives' trip.

This was confirmed on 17 November by peace adviser Jesus Antonio Bejarano, who told EL TIEMPO that the government is concerned about Caracas becoming a transit point for the guerrillas.

In contrast to Bejarano's statement, a high-level Foreign Ministry source said on 17 November that there is discontent over Venezuela's position.

The source said: "We do not look favorably upon the fact that Venezuela is permitting the Colombian guerrillas to travel around the world discrediting the country's image. Such actions are unnecessary."

Nevertheless, it was reported that Colombia does not plan to lodge any official verbal or written protest with the government of the neighboring country. [passage omitted]

* ELN Dissident Group on Caracas Peace Talks

* 'Socialist Renewal' Background

92SM0103A Santa Fe de Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 14 Oct 91 pp 16-17

[Article by Maria Elvira Bonilla and Omar Roberto Rodriguez]

[Text] Since June of this year, in every camp and command of the Camilist Union of the Army of National Liberation (ELN), an atmosphere of tension has prevailed because of the resurgence of a dissident faction, Socialist Renewal, better known as "El Parche" [the patch]. Of the six fronts operating on the coast, only two (6 December of the Sierra Nevada in Santa Marta, and Jose Manuel Martinez Quiroz of Cesar) are still taking orders from Manuel Perez, Nicolas Rodriguez ("Gabino"), and the Central Command.

However, a commission made up of 16 members of the Sierra Front has expressed support for following the suggestions put forth by the dissident group led by

Gabriel Borja and Jacinto Ruiz, members of the ELN National Directorate. The northeastern guerrilla front, named for Guillermo Vasquez Bernal, responded favorably to an inquiry about an experimental plan to participate in the mayoral elections. This breaks with the ELN's traditional position of abstention.

All of this suggests that the gradual factionalization of the guerrilla group is a process that has not yet ended. It is known that the fronts that are no longer taking orders from the Coordinating Committee include Astolfo Gonzalez in Uraba, Jaime Bateman in Sucre, Luis Carlos Osorno in Bolivar, Alfredo Gomez in Cordoba, Heroes de las Bananeras in the Magdalena, and a large number of urban fronts operating in 20 capital cities.

But the emergence of clashing factions within the ELN structure is nothing new. Several founders of the guerrilla organization lost their lives after starting up new factions or dissident groups. That happened to Victor Medina Moron, who used the pseudonym of Andres Sierra to sign the Simacota Manifesto, the first formal action of the ELN. He and Julio Cesar Cortes, leader of the National University Federation, were executed by Fabio Vasquez Castano, the first commander of the organization who is now a law professor at the University of Havana. The same fate befell Ricardo Lara Parada, commander of the Camilo Torres Front and political adviser to Tomas Borge in Nicaragua. After founding the Broad Front of the Middle Magdalena (FAM), Lara Parada was killed in Barrancabermeja.

A Year of Peace?

Gabriel Borja and Jacinto Ruiz met on 3 October with 10 members of the "Congresito" [little congress] or Legislative Commission to present their proposal for a one-year unilateral ceasefire. The proposal includes a precise delineation of the detente zones, backed by strict verification mechanisms.

The leaders are demanding that social and political agreements with the government be completed during this period, to be enacted into law later on. Those who have taken up arms would use this period to form a new political movement.

To reach a total cessation of hostilities, the faction has made a clear demand: The government must first push for the restructuring of the military apparatus in Colombia, which includes a change in the budgetary allocations for the armed forces; it must grant full guarantees for protest and social mobilization (read: dismantle the paramilitary organizations and similar groups); and finally, it must revise the current economic model.

The latter point is of vital importance to Jacinto Ruiz, who contends that "the Constitution has opened up democratic and political domains, but in the economic and social spheres there has been no reform. What we are witnessing is none other than a social massacre caused by the massive layoffs resulting from the opening up of the economy."

"The problem of peace is too serious to be left to the state and the National Guerrilla Coordinating Committee alone." In Ruiz's opinion, both the government and the guerrilla leadership are stalling for time in the peace talks in Caracas. "Each has the idea that it will conquer the enemy. The government is pursuing a short-term objective: to preserve President Gaviria's image."

Ruiz believes that selling the country on the idea that peace will come with the demobilization of the guerrillas is deceitful. "The main thing is to achieve a process of demobilization of all the factors that generate violence. If we believe the official surveys, civilians in Colombia have about 500,000 short- and long-range weapons in their possession. And if we also believe that the guerrillas have 10,000 weapons, what can they do against those 500,000?"

The Problem Is Militias

Jacinto Ruiz knows what he is talking about. Between 1986 and 1990, while he was serving as secretary of international relations for the ELN, he, Antonio Navarro Wolff, Bernardo Gutierrez, and Dario Mejia were on a political-diplomatic commission appointed by the Simon Bolivar Coordinating Committee to handle that group's relations with Central American and Caribbean nations, including Nicaragua, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Cuba.

Another factor that should be taken into consideration in the peace process is the so-called urban militias. "In the Caracas dialogue the negotiations are between two armies that are completely ignoring the urban problem facing the country. The urban militias are growing at an accelerated rate, and in two or three years they will be a real headache for the country." In his view, the solution goes beyond the cessation of guerrilla activities in the countryside. "There are 8,000 militia members in Medellin, and they are already beginning to show up in Bogota, Cali, and Barranquilla. What will the problem be like in a few years?"

Indeed, according to the newspaper EL MILICIANO, published by the leadership of the popular militias in Medellin, today the Militias by the People and for the People and the Los Chacon Militia are operating in the northeastern sector of that city. In the northwestern part of the city, the 6 and 7 November Militia is in charge. And within the Medellin trade union movement, the 1 May Militia prevails. In other words, there are militias for every taste and need.

I Do Not Believe You, Jacinto

Gabriel Borja, the other visible head of the ELN dissident movement, became involved in peasant activism in 1966. By 1987 he was the top political official of the My Free Fatherland organization. Since 1989 he has been an

elected member of the ELN Central Command. He was also a founder of the Guerrilla Coordinating Committee in La Uribe.

"The Colombian guerrilla movement has not been able to escape the ethical crisis that is plaguing the country. It has made mistakes and deviations that have made it difficult to communicate with the political and social sectors and to relate to the urban reality." Borja contends that the ELN is an organization with a rural mentality that has been unable to overcome the "syndromes of the era of violence."

"Unfortunately, it has not been possible for the guerrillas to play a role in the transformation of society in Colombia. They are better known for their destructive capacity than their constructive capacity."

"Latin America needed structural changes, and the only way to bring them about was by taking up arms. We reached a point where having a gun in your hand was like having a stick. To be heard, you have to talk tough."

And with regard to those who laid down their arms to be heard in a different way, Borja's opinion is very clear: "The M-19 very quickly lowered its social banners and its proposal for a new society. We applaud its contribution to the break-up of the two-party monopoly and the fact that it has channeled new sectors of the population into the political and democratic struggle. But we do not agree with its unrestricted support for the government, for the armed forces, for the major economic groups, and for some paramilitary sectors."

Borja and Ruiz, promoters of "Socialist Renewal," are negotiating the inclusion of their faction in the National Guerrilla Coordinating Committee. It is considered unlikely that they will be allowed to join any time soon, because some sectors say they would reinforce the moderate position represented by Alfonso Cano in the talks with the government. Moreover, urban commands meeting in the territory of the Antonio Galan Front accused "Socialist Renewal" of being destructive, treacherous, and continuing the policy of Antonio Navarro Wolff and Bernardo Gutierrez. Manuel Perez himself, during a session of the ELN Central Command in which Borja and Ruiz participated, told the latter, after hearing his proposals, "Talk, talk, Jacinto. Talk all you want; I do not believe a word you say."

"Independent negotiation is not a hypothesis. The government keeps urging us to engage in dialogue. We are willing to talk, but we do not believe that a negotiation that does not entail the resumption of the Caracas dialogue and a study of the ceasefire proposal of 20 October will contribute to a really comprehensive solution to the peace problem."

* Leaders on Armed Struggle

92SM0103B Santa Fe de Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 22 Oct 91 pp 32-33

[Interview with "La Corriente," a dissident faction of the Army of National Liberation [ELN]; author, date, time, and place not given]

[Text] [SEMANA] What is "La Corriente" [the current]?

[La Corriente] We are a political and military organization that has separated from the ELN [Army of National Liberation] due to ideological and political differences within the guerrilla organization. We represent a significant portion of the ELN, and we have a proposal for political renewal to deal with the problems confronting the country.

[SEMANA] What are the fundamental differences between this new group and the ELN?

[La Corriente] We believe that the guerrilla movement has been anchored in the rural world, and it has had trouble relating to the urban reality. In this regard, we have major differences with them, as we do on the best way to deal with the political changes that have occurred in the world in the last two years. We did not intend to found a new movement, but there was no democratic environment in which to debate and analyze the steps that should be taken to revitalize the guerrilla movement. There was never any agreement in the Central Command on the need to rethink the strategy that has evolved in the struggle of the last few years. Should we continue talking about a strategy of war, or had the time come to take other paths in the political struggle? That was placed on the table for discussion, but no one ever reached an agreement. The ELN does not have a clear idea whether it should continue advocating a single-party, statist socialism, or whether it is necessary to seek a new model. We disagree in our concepts of socialism and democracy. We feel that what is needed at this time is a broad democratic movement that can take advantage of the changes that are occurring in the country so that it can continue promoting an evolution.

[SEMANA] How do you define yourselves politically?

[La Corriente] We are not Leninists or Marxists. We are a movement that represents the entire Colombian nation in the fullest sense. We draw upon all factions and traditions of struggle that have existed in this country. We want to be democratic, pluralist, and autonomous.

[SEMANA] Do you believe, then, that the armed struggle has lost validity?

[La Corriente] We believe that right now it is necessary to try other forms. We are in a different world than that of World War II. The cold war is over, there is a reconstruction, and the project must be refounded. We are willing to join a process in which all factors of violence in the country are deactivated. One major difference has to do with our approach to the forms of

struggle. We criticize the armed position of the Coordinating Committee, as it is very radical, very vertical. And we have serious differences with regard to the political language.

[SEMANA] From your point of view, how would you define the ELN politically?

[La Corriente] The ELN has ended up representing the rural world more. It is outmoded in its interpretation of the phenomena that have occurred in the world over the last two years. All of this leads to a profound ideological difference that has been heightened with time. That debate was aborted within the organization, and that was why the rupture took place. We believe that it is impossible to continue advocating a program just like the one of the 1960s.

[SEMANA] Who is in charge of the ELN?

[La Corriente] The ELN command structure consists of a Central Command and a National Directorate. It is the Central Command that calls the shots, but Father Perez plays the most important role in it. This structure does not mean that the Command has total control over all the fronts.

[SEMANA] What is your interpretation of the process that led to the promulgation of the new Constitution?

[La Corriente] We appreciate the advances that the new Constitution represents for the country, especially in the political sphere. We recognize that new channels of expression have been opened up, and at least in theory, a number of rights that did not previously exist are now recognized. But we see that these advances are limited, because the Constituent Assembly did not deal with the country's economic problem. If there is no economic democracy, there can be no participative democracy.

[SEMANA] What do you think of the possibility of a political solution within the framework of Caracas?

[La Corriente] We believe that at this time the conditions are not right for arriving at a total political solution to the conflict. There is no democratic movement pressuring for the changes that are needed. Nor do we see the immediate conditions for a disarmament of the guerrilla movement as a whole, or for its demobilization. That is why we feel that the first thing that must happen is a demilitarization over a long period of time. We are willing to concentrate the guerrilla movement in a few detente zones so that a bilateral ceasefire that is lasting and verifiable can be brought about. If this experiment bears fruit, we are willing to move forward.

[SEMANA] What differences are there between what the ELN representatives are doing on the Coordinating Committee in Caracas and what you are proposing?

[La Corriente] We place more emphasis on the importance of and the need for a political movement of the masses that is as broad as possible. More emphasis on some political "favorabilities" for participating in political elections.

[SEMANA] What do you mean by "more political favorabilities"?

[La Corriente] At the Caracas talks we would cite the need for a social emergency plan to cope with the negative effects of the economic liberalization. This is a key issue in the negotiations, if the real objective is to provide the environment for a large-scale peace process. We must get the civilian society much more involved in the negotiations. The atmosphere between the two sides in Caracas has been more a dynamic of war than one of peace.

[SEMANA] Do you think that what the Coordinating Committee is doing in Caracas is trying to get its second wind so that it can resume the war?

[La Corriente] An atmosphere should be instilled in Caracas to encourage a political participation that will make it possible to create the necessary conditions of trust so that discussion can begin on new steps forward. We have reduced our agenda to three points: first, the need to demilitarize national life. President Gaviria has begun to take important steps, such as the appointment of civilians to the Defense Ministry and the Administrative Department of Security (DAS). But we need to go much deeper than that. The second point has to do with clearer conditions for carrying on the political and democratic struggle. In the third place, it is necessary to deal with the problem of the economic liberalization.

[SEMANA] Do you believe that the ELN sector that is in Caracas does not agree with the demobilization?

[La Corriente] Part of our differences with them are in that area. We offered to go to Caracas to seek a more conciliatory approach, but they decided to send a delegation that is more hardline, more radical. The government and the Coordinating Committee negotiate according to different rhythms. We do not think the government is sending very clear signals of a true peace process.

[SEMANA] Does Father Perez, then, represent the hard line in the ELN, and you the soft line?

[La Corriente] Yes, that is true. There is a problem with Father Perez, dating back to around 1987, although the catalyst came during the Constituent Assembly. It was the organization's position with regard to elections, the Constituent Assembly, and participation in that process. That complicated a lot of things. The insurgent movement made a mistake. For a long time in all of these internal struggles the priest was a kind of center of gravity who balanced and mediated to find solutions. With our position, he abandoned that line and decided to support the most radical sector. We thought that decision, which was totally unexpected, was illogical.

[SEMANA] What is Galan's position?

[La Corriente] He is a hardliner. Galan speaks more for the organization than for the country.

* ELN Head Perez Assesses Peace Talks, Plans

92SM0102A Bogota CROMOS in Spanish
28 Oct 91 pp 14-17

[Telephone interview with ELN head Manuel Perez by Francisco Pardo; place and date not given: "No Conditions..."]

[Text] It was to be a meeting with the hardline guerrilla fronts. There were four leaders running the meeting, representing 500 guerrilla members. They belonged to the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia], the EPL [Popular Liberation Army]—headed by Bernardo Caraballo—and the ELN [Army of National Liberation]. The priest Perez, who had been expected to chair the meeting, did not come. He pleaded health reasons, but in addition military operations on the eve of the elections had become threatening and risky. Manuel Perez was present, though, via radiotelephone. CROMOS spoke with him.

In contrast with the others present, Bishop Luis Madrid Merlano of Tibu was armed only with his convictions. He was a special guest at the meeting. The prelate, a respected man who for almost a decade has been working in this dangerous area, had no qualms about questioning the guerrilla fronts. His words rang in the ears of Fabio Rojas, commandant of the FARC's Front XXXIII; of Omar Garcia, head of the EPL's Catatumbo group; of Ruben Zamora from the FARC's military command; Felipe Rojas of the UC [Camilist Union]-ELN central commando group; and the personal representative of Manuel Perez. All of them had come down from the mountains to hold this first regional conference, an attempt by the Guerrilla Coordinating Group to establish direct contacts between the campesinos and guerrilla leaders in northeastern Colombia.

There were no comments about the bishop's biting reproaches to the guerrillas. When the meeting ended after seven hours of discussions among local leaders, the Church, representatives of the guerrillas and ordinary people, they all agreed that the bishop, who had used no arms other than sincerity and integrity during this first round with the guerrillas, emerged the winner in this confrontation. Bishop Madrid Merlano appealed to the feelings of the majority of the Colombian people, who hope the guerrillas will change their behavior so their words may become credible.

There in the heart of the mountains, the guerrilla leaders headed by the priest Manuel Perez agreed to reply promptly to the bishop's demand, and they scheduled another meeting after the elections, when a different political climate may prevail. Perez spoke with CROMOS reporters via radiotelephone.

There Is Only One ELN

[Pardo] The apparently deep division in the organization you command has had an impact. Is it true that 40 percent of your people have left the ELN?

[Perez] I do not like to talk about numbers. I do not know where the percentage you just mentioned came from, but it is not true. People can make whatever calculations they want and then they say whatever they like.

[Pardo] Are you not trying to minimize something which in everyone's eyes is of major significance, and which in any event is going to damage the image of the guerrilla group?

[Perez] An uprising by a splinter group is normal and it happens in all parties. That is why it is important that the Socialist Renewal Movement has arisen, for with it will come new alternatives and options. There will be new and greater possibilities for fresh approaches in seeking solutions to the nation's serious problems. There will be no difficulties, for we remain united as an insurgent group.

[Pardo] Might the appearance of that insurgent group within your guerrilla movement, which was certainly the one that seemed to be the most solid and led with an iron hand, have an impact on the Caracas peace dialogue strategy?

[Perez] I do not share that point of view. Our organization is united and its commanders are in full control; we are the ones who are talking about peace in Caracas and we will continue to do so next week. Like the UC-ELN, we are part of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Group. That is why there is no difficulty. I want to make that clear, as well as the fact that the government knows very well what this situation is, as it does our suggestions for conducting negotiations.

[Pardo] Then you remain strong despite the departure of some of your comrades?

[Perez] Yes, of course. In fact, because of our presence in Colombia, the existence of the Socialist Renewal Movement has no great significance. Our force is present all over Colombia, and theirs is not. The comrades who left at first planned to establish eight fronts; then they said five, and it seems to us that they may present the country with the five fronts they talked about. Believe me, it is significant for us that there are more fronts now and that they are growing, but in reality they have only one front. The others have few members. I hope things will go well for them, but I do not like to get involved in these internal matters. That is not a good thing to do.

[Pardo] But does this division hurt your image?

[Perez] That is debatable. People may be overly hasty in jumping to that conclusion.

[Pardo] Is your group afraid that the renewal group's leadership might come to surpass yours?

[Perez] No, absolutely not. I hope there will be many more leaders who will come up with new ideas and alternatives, and propose things the country needs.

[Pardo] Like what?

[Perez] I am not going to tell you; they need to do that. I want to see them.

[Pardo] Are you challenging them?

[Perez] No; I am simply expressing myself as you asked me to do.

[Pardo] It seems that the ELN's political cohesiveness has been shattered.

[Perez] Not at all. We are united and homogenous. We have a centralized command organization and I am its commander. I do not see why you are talking about our being shattered.

[Pardo] I am not saying that. Those are simply the facts we can see. What is happening in the ELN?

[Pardo] Well, a movement appeared which had ideas different from ours. In that sense, the situation is very clear. The UC-ELN is one thing and the Socialist Renewal Movement is another.

[Pardo] And is the split very profound?

[Perez] There were some very basic differences. They expressed their differences politically and with the necessary humanity, so now they can pursue their own goals and we can pursue ours.

Peace, the Only Issue

[Pardo] Let us talk now about what you call your desire for peace. You say you are ready to negotiate and to act, but that is not apparent. Nothing happens. There are only words. You need to make what you are saying credible by acting logically, that is, by stopping the fighting and attacks.

[Perez] Look; in the last few days, right after military combats with the government forces, there were massacres of the civilian population in Barrancabermeja, including Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] workers. We call that retaliation, and we feel that as long as there is a social and military conflict, it should be dealt with without retaliations. Because of this state of war in which we are engaged as insurgents, these combats have to go on. If we met a military patrol in the street, I do not think they would give us their hand in a friendly greeting, nor would we do that to them. So let there be credibility, but on both sides. We are prepared to respond, if the Army does so too.

[Pardo] Do you think that public opinion believes what you say about achieving peace?

[Perez] I would say that depends on what you mean by public opinion. Some of the media create their own opinions, and those media do not believe me. They do everything possible so that the population will not learn about the positions which different parties in the conflict have, and without information, people do not know what is really going on. We are going to have to create ways so that we can speak and be heard without people being deceived.

[Pardo] I am not referring only to public opinion in Bogota, but all over the country.

[Perez] We are willing to have a poll done all over the nation.

[Pardo] What are the political intentions of the Guerrilla Coordinating Group and of the government about moving forward in the Caracas talks which will resume next week?

[Perez] We are prepared to support beginning the negotiations and seeking a political solution for the conflict. We have released over 100 members of the armed forces whom we had held this year, while our arrested comrades have not been released, nor have the disappeared been seen again, and many have been tortured or murdered.

[Pardo] But you continue to perpetrate attacks and assaults against the nation's economic infrastructure.

[Perez] Some people want to back us into a corner, and we will not allow that to happen. Let me remind you that we are a belligerent force and we make our presence felt, as the Army does in its areas. I want the nation to learn that we are not a defeated force. We arose as an armed expression of people with problems. If that were not true, we would carry something other than arms on our shoulders.

[Pardo] But the government has given you alternatives; it does not consider you defeated, as you say.

[Perez] They have not even proposed things as basic as solving the country's primary problems. There have been no discussions about this. We feel that they want us to turn ourselves in like defeated forces. I believe the government has no intention of resolving the conflict.

[Pardo] Does that mean there will be no ceasefire now?

[Perez] The conditions are not right for a ceasefire like the government wants. We hope there will be some desire to seek new formulas, and that should take precedence over many things in Caracas. That is how we have acted. Despite the massacres, we did not get up from the negotiating table because that is part of the conflict. But on the other side the government hastily left the bargaining table without investigating what had happened concerning Senator Iragorri.

[Pardo] You say that the government suspended the talks without investigating the Cajibio attack, but the fact is

that the government asked you to condemn that deed and you did not do so. You only gave an explanation and that was all.

[Perez] A great deal has already been said about that, and the communications media wanted to shut us up in a trap. We asked for a commission to investigate that deed and others like the Segovia and Barranca massacres, but nothing has been said about that, or about the crimes which have happened in just the last few days. Does that mean those crimes are of no significance? And three weeks later, people are still talking about the Iragorri case.

Perez remains in the mountains. The guerrillas who are protecting and following him will not renounce their convictions. The government is waiting for the right conditions for resuming talks. The dimensions of the ELN and Socialist Renewal Movement split still remain unknown. In the meantime, the government is inclined to seek bridges for dialogue. The hardline guerrilla fronts remain resolute, armed, convinced. The nation longs for peace; everyone is waiting. There seems to be no movement "either backward or forward."

Cuban Bank President Arrives To Sign Agreements

PA2211030991 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, arrived in Colombia to fully normalize financial and trade relations. He will meet with the finance, economic development, and foreign trade ministers and will sign several bilateral trade agreements. He will also meet with the country's business sector.

Mr. Llompart will also define the financial terms for Colombia's restructuring of a $40 million debt.

Ecopetrol Details Damage of Pipeline Attacks

PA2111204991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 20 Nov (EFE)—Officials of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) reported that on 20 November alleged members of the Marxist Army of National Liberation (ELN) destroyed two sections of the major Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline in the northern and northeastern areas of the country, forcing a suspension in oil flow.

Ecopetrol sources said that the first attack occurred on km 482 of the 780 km-long pipeline. The second attack occurred on km 429 in the rural area of Convencion, Norte de Santander Department.

Ecopetrol added that the first explosion caused the most damage because over 6,000 barrels of crude were spilled. This attack occurred in the Pelaya rural area, Cesar Department, approximately 700 km north of Santa Fe de Bogota.

Ecopetrol experts and technicians are trying to repair the pipeline in the two destroyed sections. The destruction of the first section suspended the flow of over 230,000 barrels of crude a day from the Cravo Norte wells to the Covenas Atlantic Port.

The ELN claimed responsibility for all of the attacks—50 in all—carried out this year on the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, noting that it does so to stop the looting of Colombia's natural wealth. Ecopetrol announced that once the repair work is completed, the oil pumping will resume, and a communique detailing the damage the attacks are causing to the ecology will be issued.

Roundup of Guerrilla Activities, 2-18 Nov

PA2111165591

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports monitored by Panama Bureau on guerrilla activities in Colombia from 2 to 18 November.

Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 2 November on page 16A carries a 150-word report on an attack on a Colombian oil pipeline "seemingly by members of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, CNG, in northeastern Antioquia." According to the newspaper, the dynamite placed by the guerrillas destroyed 21 pipes that were to be used in the construction of the pipeline.

Sante Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 3 November on page 6A carries a 300-word report on the death of four soldiers and one civilian on 2 November in Remedios, Antioquia when what is believed to have been a joint group of FARC; Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia; and ELN, Army of National Liberation, forces armed with rifles and automatic weapons attacked a truck transporting soldiers. The same article reports that Sergio de Jesus Congote, vice president of the Zaragoza, Antioquia labor union, was murdered by unidentified men. The date of the murder was not specified.

Sante Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 4 November on page 12c carries a 200-word follow-up report on the preceding item. It states that following the attack, the rebels kidnapped three soldiers and seized their weapons and a set of communication equipment. The newspaper cites a military source as having said that the Army has increased its counterguerrilla efforts. The same newspaper on page 12c carries a 275-word report by correspondent Jorge Cardenas, who quotes Major General Eddy Alberto Payares Cotes as saying that the Army's goal is to capture FARC leader Manuel Marulanda Velez and other high-ranking members of the organization. General Payares said that over the past two weeks, 30 guerrillas were killed and 15 injured during clashes in Caqueta, Huila, and Meta Departments.

Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 4 November on page 6 publishes a 350-word report that

the Army has conducted intense operations in Antioquia's middle Magdalena region to locate the group of CNG fighters who killed four soldiers and one civilian in that region. The report also reports the murder of two policemen by unidentified individuals, one in Medellin and the other in Valle del Cauca; the dismantling of one of the CNG's most important camps in Uraba; and the seizure of weapons, camping equipment, and secret documents "that are being studied by military authorities."

Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 0613 GMT on 7 November reported that at least seven people were killed and five injured on 6 November in Florida, Valle del Cauca, when hooded and heavily armed men opened fire in a dance hall.

Mexico City NOTIMEX at 1808 GMT on 8 November reported that on 8 November at least three Colombian soldiers were killed when members of the ELN attacked a police convoy in Arauca Province. In the fighting that ensued, two rebels were killed and six more soldiers were injured. According to the report, the ELN announced from Caracas that it "will continue attacking the police and the country's oil infrastructure in response to the Army's operations against its fronts."

Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 8 November carries a brief report on the deaths of three soldiers when the ELN ambushed a military patrol near Tame in Arauca Department.

Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish on 9 November on page 6 publishes two brief reports of approximately 110 words. The first report adds to the above Inravision report that two guerrillas were also killed and six soldiers injured during the attack near Tame in Arauca Department. The second report notes that guerrillas attacked a police convoy in Segovia, Antioquia with dynamite, killing one policeman and wounding five others, no date was given of the attack.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 1845 GMT on 9 November, citing a report by the National Committee of Victims of Violence, Comite Nacional de Victimas de la Violencia, states that during the past six months at least 517 civilians, rebels, and soldiers were killed in CNG actions.

Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 11 November on page 12a publishes an 800-word report on a guerrilla attack on Gutierrez, a town in Cundinamarca, on 9 November at 1215 in the morning. The guerrillas, members of the FARC, occupied the town and attacked the police station and government institutions. Eyewitnesses recount the violence and threats they were subjected to, and the events leading to the kidnapping of two policemen.

Sante Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 11 November, in a report that lasted under a minute, announced that heavy clashes were under way between members of the CNG and the Army in Puritica, Antioquia. So far, the report stated, one soldier was injured and two guerrillas were killed, and the Army seized a considerable amount of war materiel.

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 12 November broadcast a one-minute report on two guerrilla attacks in Norte de Santander, which resulted in the death of two policemen and three civilians, and the capture of two guerrillas.

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 14 November carries a one-minute report on the FARC occupation of Pasca, a town in Cundinamarca Department, on 13 November. The heavily armed insurgents occupied financial institutions and injured one policeman.

Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish at 1800 GMT on 17 November airs a one-minute report on a clash between CNG and 4th Brigade troops in Coconal Municipality in Medellin. No casualties were noted.

Madrid EFE in Spanish at 2356 GMT on 11 November reports that three peasants and two policemen were killed in Norte de Santander Department when members of the CNG attempted to occupy San Calixto. Elsewhere, in Buritica, in a clash between Army and FARC forces, two guerrillas were killed and four captured.

Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish on 17 November on page 6a publishes a 100-word report on the kidnapping of Patriotic Union leader Felipe Gonzalez by the CNG in Norte de Santander.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 1752 GMT on 18 November issued a report in which the Defense Ministry announces that at least 17 people were killed in clashes between Army and rebel forces beginning at dawn on 17 November in Cordoba, Bolivar, Antioquia, and Santander, where FARC and ELN forces operate. In Turbo, one soldier and five FARC rebels were killed in a clash, and in Bucarasica, two rebels and one policemen were killed.

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 18 November carries three minutes of battle reports. In Guamal, Bolivar, one soldier and four guerrillas were killed. In Cocorna, Antioquia, two ELN guerrillas were killed, and two rebels were killed on the Los Alamos farm.

Paraguay

Executive Branch Promulgates Armed Forces Law

PY2111185691 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Nov 91 p 6

[Text] The Executive Branch promulgated yesterday Law 74/91 on the organization of the Armed Forces, the

day after it was approved by Congress. The new law repeals the previous law, No. 832, issued in November 1980. Among other things, the new law establishes the Army Command, and the Armed Forces' competence in restoring domestic order if so established by the president through the pertinent decree. The new law also establishes the powers and attributions of the commander in chief.

According to the new law, in order to fulfill their objectives, the Armed Forces must: a) protect land and river borders and air space; b) organize, equip, and train forces to be able to resist any aggression; c) organize, plan, and manage reserves; d) cooperate in civil defense operations; and e) cooperate in restoring domestic order when so ordered by the president through the pertinent decree.

The Armed Forces Law establishes that the military service will be regulated through special laws and regulations and that it comprises compulsory and voluntary military services. The law, however, does not explain the latter.

Chapter three establishes that the Armed Forces will be divided into the Armed Forces Command, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force.

Article 111 states that the president is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces and that he may delegate to a general the effective command of the Armed Forces.

The law establishes that the commander in chief will have the following powers and attributions: a) to exercise the effective command of the Armed Forces and to train military personnel and its integral structure for the efficient development of the Armed Forces' duties; b) to exercise legal and disciplinary actions among Armed Forces members and also their regulations.

Paragraph "C" of Article 12 establishes the organization and distribution of the Armed Forces; the military regulations established by the law; the appointments of those Armed Forces members who, in addition to holding military duties, carry out administrative duties; the promotions of generals, colonels, or their equivalent approved by the Armed Forces Promotion Board once the respective constitutional proceedings have been fulfilled; the promotion of high-ranking officers and their subordinates or their equivalent up to the rank of lieutenant colonel previously approved by the Armed Forces Promotion Board; the retirement of officers from the permanent cadres and the demobilization of reserve cadres; the licensing of the rank and file which was fulfilled with the compulsory military service; and the incorporation of citizens old enough to perform military service.

Other powers and attributions of the commander in chief are those established in the laws, decrees, and regulations. When the effective command of the Armed Forces is delegated to a general, all the powers mentioned in Clause "C" of this article must be proposed and requested by the executive branch through the Defense Ministry.

The Armed Forces Command is comprised of the Armed Forces Joint Staff; the staffs of the branches of the Armed Forces; military courts; and troops from the General Headquarters.

Regarding organization and structure, Law 74/91 establishes that in times of war, the Armed Forces will be comprised of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and their respective reserves whenever they are summoned and mobilized.

The organization of the Armed Forces in peacetime will be the same as during war, except that Armed Forces troops and equipment will be reinforced in keeping with what is established by the organizational chart and equipment in times of war.

Acting Air Force Commander Removed From Post

PY2111170291 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Nov 91 pp 2-3

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] General Dionisio Cabello Amarilla was suddenly ousted yesterday from his post as acting Air Force commander. Cabello was placed under arrest for disciplinary reasons; he disobeyed orders imparted by President Rodriguez. This was confirmed by Rodriguez after the Armed Forces Promotions Board meeting which placed 14 generals on the retirement list.

The tension within the military ranks became known early yesterday morning when an unidentified person phoned the media to say that the Air Force commander would be changed at 0900 at the Air Force Command where, contrary to all speculation, Cabello was replaced by General Jose Cespedes Zarza.

However, the change of command was postponed for more than one hour because the outgoing commander refused to take part in the change of command ceremony. General Eumelio Bernal, the Armed Forces chief of staff, was in charge of installing the new Air Force commander. In his speech, Bernal said that this change was part of a reorganization within the military commands and that it was not due "to any specific reason."

Three hours later, General Rodriguez personally informed the press that Cabello had been "punished" for a minor act of disobedience. The commander in chief did not specify, however, what kind of disobedience.

Gen. Cabello was arrested and taken from the Air Force Command headquarters to the Armed Forces Command headquarters. He was escorted by Gen. Bernal; Presidential Household Chief Regis Anibal Romero; and General Lino Cesar Oviedo, the newly appointed 1st Corps commander.

According to unofficial reports that were circulating last night, Cabello's replacement was decided on the evening of 19 November because he opposed the promotion of Colonel Cesar Rafael Cramer, who was promoted to the rank of general. Cabello's candidate for promotion was, apparently, Colonel Eduardo Guilardoni.

Other reports state that Cabello refused to accept Cramer as the Air Force staff chief, his second in command, because of personal problems they have had in the past. This newspaper tried to contact Col. Cramer to obtain more information in this regard but he was not at his house.

Other reports state that Gen. Cabello disagreed with the three generals who had arrested him. Cabello, who is under arrest at the presidential guard unit, reportedly alleged that because he backed the coup d'etat in February 1989, he could not be placed on the retirement list so fast.

Cabello also reportedly raised the issue of the planes that were recently donated by the ROC. He noted that the planes were acquired through his personal negotiation. This would explain the constant presence of the Taiwanese ambassador to Paraguay at all the visits that the president made yesterday to the different military units during the time of greatest tension.

Some sources speculated yesterday that Cabello's removal from the Air Force resulted from a disagreement he had with Gen. Lino Oviedo, whom he contradicted some time ago when Oviedo said that the national security doctrine drafted by the Pentagon was still in force. They added that Oviedo's appointment constitutes an important promotion which makes him "the second most powerful man" in Paraguay.

Peru

Ambassador to Brazil Talks on Border Conflict

PA2211043591 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Peruvian Ambassador to Brazil Antonio Belaunde in Brasilia by Gonzalo Iwasaki—live]

[Text] [Iwasaki] We are in contact with, Antonio Belaunde, the Peruvian ambassador in Brasilia. The delegation of plenipotentiary ambassadors, the mixed delegation of congress, ended its visit to this first guarantor country and coordinator of guarantors—Brazil—and departed a few hours ago for Argentina, the second stop on this tour, which includes the four guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. Good morning, Ambassador Belaunde.

[Belaunde] Hello.

[Iwasaki] It is 0721 here in Lima. I believe it is now 0921 in Brasilia.

[Belaunde] There has been a time change here.

[Iwasaki] What were the results of the mission of the plenipotentiary delegation of congress that has been to Brazil. With whom have they met and what were the results of the explanation they gave of the Peruvian position?

[Belaunde] It is a little too early to evaluate the results. I believe that the results have been good. It is a matter of persuading public opinion and congressional circles.

[Iwasaki] Ambassador, the important thing is that an Ecuadoran delegation had previously visited Brasilia. It met with representatives of the Brazilian Congress and some reports were made known that were not very clear. According to these reports, Brazil would act as mediator and there were a series of other reports.

[Belaunde] There is nothing to that.

[Iwasaki] Has the Peruvian presence contributed to the clarification of the protocol?

[Belaunde] Yes, clear explanations have been offered. The most important thing has been the meeting with Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, which took place at 1630 on 20 November. The members of the delegation all met with him. They were led by its spokesman, Senator Armando Villanueva. It was a lengthy, very cordial meeting and the foreign minister carefully listened to the explanations. [words indistinct]

[Iwasaki] Was there a meeting with President Fernando Collor de Mello?

[Belaunde] Neither the Ecuadoran nor the Peruvian delegation met with the president. The guarantors have remembered that the delegations are to be met at a ministerial level in all capitals.

[Iwasaki] President Collor de Mello has talked about promoting a meeting with President Alberto Fujimori and President Rodrigo Borja of Ecuador.

[Belaunde] President Fujimori of Peru.

[Iwasaki] Is this not true?

[Belaunde] President Collor de Mello has announced the decision to hold a meeting with both presidents.

[Iwasaki] I have one more question....

[Belaunde, interrupting] The parliamentarians also met with the presidents of the foreign affairs commissions [words indistinct] and members of the Chamber of Deputies. Since the vice president of the Chamber of Deputies was not able to meet with them because he was handling a serious internal problem, they spent the entire morning yesterday meeting with congressmen, which was very useful. In addition, the day before that, they met with distinguished jurists and university professors from Brasilia here at the embassy. It was a beneficial meeting in which explanations were made and maps

were shown. It was a useful meeting. After a luncheon I held for them at noon yesterday, there was a news conference here in Brasilia in which members of the media and news agencies were present.

[Iwasaki] Ambassador Belaunde, as a result of this meeting, which you say began at your residence yesterday, is it clear that the Rio Protocol is a fully valid document, impossible to be disregarded, which is one of the positions? Another document cannot be renegotiated....

[Belaunde, interrupting] [Words indistinct] There is a chance of resolving the problems that still exist within the protocol.

[Iwasaki] The delimitation of the stretch of border at the Condor Mountain Range?

[Belaunde] The delimitation of the border at specific points.

[Iwasaki] You have been very nice by speaking to us. Thank you and good morning.

[Belaunde] The problems with the interpretation of the protocol, which has existed for many years, should be solved within the procedures established by the protocol itself.

[Iwasaki] That is what we have always upheld here. Ambassador, thank you very much. Good morning.

[Belaunde] You are welcome, good morning.

Shining Path Spokesman Interviewed in Zurich

PY2111220291 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish
10 Nov 91 pp A11-A14

["Exclusive" interview with Luis Arce Borja, Shining Path representative in Europe, by Jorge Salazar in Zurich; date not given]

[Text] [Salazar] Observers and intelligence service organizations claim that you are one of the most powerful Shining Path leaders. What do you think of that?

[Arce Borja] The Peruvian Government and police usually resort to the word terrorist in order to justify murders, abductions, and imprisonments, like that of EL DIARIO Deputy Director Janet Talavera, who has been unjustly imprisoned since 1989.

[Salazar] You know that I read what you write and that I am also going after you. If there is anyone close to Abimael Guzman, it must be you. You have said this and are still saying it. You have published and continue to publish your conversations with Dr. Guzman. Moreover—and you cannot deny it—EL DIARIO has punctually reported Shining Path activities.

[Arce Borja] You are telling the truth; I know Dr. Guzman and have talked with him. It is true that I conducted "the interview of the century"; it is a privilege, because as you know, that interview has been translated into all languages and is currently being analyzed as one of Latin America's most valuable theoretical political-military documents. On the other hand, the government and the military intelligence services are in bad faith calling me a spokesman for the Communist Party of Peru. Doing this is equivalent to ignoring the role of the press at the service of the Peruvian people. The only thing we want is to be honest with history and with the Peruvian people's struggle. Life is the price for talking in Peru.

[Salazar] You have information, a lot of information that no one else and that cannot be obtained unless... You understand me, right?

[Arce Borja] The obtaining of information is central for the people's war. Until 1983, it was said in Peru that the objectives of the Communist Party of Peru were not known. Driven by its urge to inform the public, EL DIARIO has taken the trouble to obtain information and documents. We therefore had the privilege not only of interviewing President Gonzalo, but also of having access to essential documents. We did that despite repression. We will continue to report breaking events of the people's war.

[Salazar] Let us talk about the "people's war"...

[Arce Borja] Not only do I personally agree with the people's war but I also support it, because it is the only political action that can resolve the Peruvian people's problems. It is the only chance for finding a final solution to problems. That is why we support it and advertise it.

[Salazar] How long will this war last?

[Arce Borja] This is one of Latin America's most violent wars. Its objective is to seize of power. Misery and poverty, which the Fujimori administration has made more stringent, have made it possible for the Communist Party of Peru to approach the seizure of power...

[Salazar] Are you speaking out of faith, or do you have other reasons for saying that?

[Arce Borja] The problem of revolutions is not a problem of faith but a problem of understanding. It should be admitted that the Communist Party, under the leadership of Dr. Abimael Guzman, is the most consistent party on the Peruvian political scene. It is not a matter of faith but of analysis. Since 1980, the party has developed a thesis to understand Peruvian society. Based on those scientific theses, one may conclude that the party will soon seize power.

[Salazar] Some weeks ago, Adolfo Olaechea, who is a staunch follower of Guzman, told us in London that he expected that "President Gonzalo" will be the chief of the Peruvian state at the end of the century. Do you agree with that?

[Arce Borja] It is always difficult to give an exact date, but based on an impartial analysis of the events that occurred between 1980 and 1991, I believe Mr. Olaechea is right. I would even say that this will happen on an earlier date, that is, the party will assume the leadership of the Peruvian state before the end of the decade.

[Salazar] What type of state will that be?

[Arce Borja] The party has adopted a very clear position in this regard. It will be a democratic popular state, under the dictatorship of the working class, which will form an alliance with peasants, the lower bourgeoisie, and other exploited classes of the country. This state is not a dream. Analysts such as Roger Rumrrill, or people such as Gorriti or Gonzalez admit that there are many liberated zones in our country.

[Salazar] All right. Let us admit that, as you say, the Shining Path is ruling some zones in the country. But the seizure of power is still far from this.

[Arce Borja] Look, the party organized and developed the revolution's defense strategy from 1980 to 1989. From 1989 until today, the party has promoted a strategic balance and the movement's guerrilla action. In turn, starvation and misery have grown, universities have been militarized, and strong agitation has developed in shantytowns. Therefore, as a result, the party is now preparing insurrection in all Peruvian cities, including Lima.

[Salazar] Well, I agree with you. Let us imagine that you take the power now. Do you believe that neighboring countries and even the United States will accept a government such as the one you are promoting?

[Arce Borja] The popular war in Peru is also focused within the international context. The Communist Party of Peru states that the United States, the Soviet Union, and other imperialist countries are participating in the world's division process.

[Salazar] Excuse me. Have you realized that the USSR is currently going through a deep process of decadence and atomization?

[Arce Borja] The decadent process in the USSR is the result of the failure of international revisionism. This situation will generate a revolutionary movement to recover the power in those countries. But let us return to the issue. The party is aware that the final victory will be possible only through a military confrontation with the United States. Proof of this is that the United States—camouflaged in the antidrug accord—is meddling in domestic affairs. The United States is preparing to repress us. Wise President Gonzalo has already said that it is not possible to create a democratic state without a military confrontation with the United States. We have also declared war against the United States. Therefore the international support for war is very important. The serious international crisis makes the Peruvian popular war a means to encourage other revolutionary movements in the world.

[Salazar] The possibility of a dialogue between the parties sometime during this lengthy struggle has been hinted at. I ask you, as a person who maintains close relations with Abimael Guzman: Is it possible to have a dialogue with the Shining Path organization?

[Arce Borja] I will give you two replies: The first is that when we talked with Dr. Guzman we asked him about the possibility of holding a dialogue. He said that a dialogue was possible only with the condition that President Alan Garcia Perez resign. This happened in 1988. Now, I ask myself this question: A dialogue? What for? What will the contenders negotiate? The Communist Party of Peru is winning the war. It is not normal to hold a dialogue with those who were defeated. They will have to unconditionally surrender. It is also proven that to hold a dialogue with imperialists or the bourgeoisie only serves to support the bankruptcy of the oppressors. Proof of this is the case of the M-19 group in Colombia and the Alfaro Lives group in Ecuador, which have disappeared. And even more, in Peru the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement], led by former American Popular Revolutionary Alliance leader Polay, is always trying to hold a dialogue with the government. They want to stop the struggle of the Peruvian people. Dialogue is an instrument of reactionary governments to distort the objective of the revolution.

[Salazar] But a dialogue, Mr. Arce Borja, could help to find intermediate solutions, avoid bloodshed, and promote reforms. Reforms imply an improvement of the situation.

[Arce Borja] This will lead to a trap. The crisis is so serious that it cannot be solved through reforms, but only through a revolution. Furthermore, there is proof that a crisis only helps groups with power and the imperialists to accumulate wealth.

[Salazar] Mr. Arce Borja, we are in Zurich now. We previously talked in London and Dusseldorf; that is, we live or move around Switzerland, England, and Germany. And you can see that there have not been revolutions, and almost no misery here. The standard of living of most people is the result of dialogs and reforms. What are your thoughts on this?

[Arce Borja] I can tell you that these countries are also facing a crisis. There is a high-level of unemployment in France, England, and the United States, but there is something else: the standard of living of the countries you have mentioned is based on the oppression of 80 percent of the world's people. Here is an example: Between 1980 and 1989 Latin America transferred nearly $9 billion to the United States and other developed countries, without considering the amount transferred by Africa and Asia.

[Salazar] On to another subject. In the past few years the Shining Path organization has displayed great economic power, including sophisticated weapons, the publication of newspapers abroad, and the installation of offices to provide support, money, and so on.

[Arce Borja] I will reply to this question with the words of President Gonzalo: The revolution is supported by the masses. This is the answer. Regarding weapons, they have been confiscated by the popular guerrillas from the enemy. The guerrillas also purchase weapons but with the people's money. The bourgeoisie cannot understand that the people support the popular guerrilla army.

[Salazar] What about the links with drug trafficking?

[Arce Borja] Look, there are a number of people and personalities who are socialists, although nobody can imagine that, and who clearly refer to the matter. I will mention just one example. The book entitled *The War of the Andes* written in 1990 by Doctor Jounger states: "Their objective," she says, alluding to the Shining Path organization, "is different from those of the Colombian drug traffickers, who seek to obtain cocaine paste at the lowest possible cost to increase their economic resources."

She adds that the Shining Path organization wants to establish relations with the local people to carry out their revolutionary and anticapitalist objectives. The Shining Path organization has been able to negotiate coca leaves at a higher price, thus gaining the support of coca growers who pay a tax to the organization." Thus you can see.

[Salazar] But does this mean that the Shining Path organization is linked to drug trafficking?

[Arce Borja] That is what you think. The Shining Path organization supports the people, the exploited peasant. And I will tell you something else. Drug trafficking is not a problem that the armed struggle wants to resolve for the time being. This is a more serious problem that the revolution will resolve in due time. The problem of drug trafficking and coca growing will be definitively solved as soon as the Communist Party of Peru takes power, and not before then.

Laws on Economic, Terrorist, Police Activities

PY2111210091 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Nov 91 p A1

[Excerpts] According to the Basic Law for promoting private investment, the state will no longer engage in any economic activity. This law was released yesterday as part of a set of 10 decrees that were published in EL PERUANO, two days before the expiration of the extraordinary powers granted by Congress to the executive branch.

The law, published as decree No. 757, declares that foreign and local private investment in production activities, which are being or will be performed near the borders, is a national necessity. Through a supplemental resolution, the law also annulled the automatic adjustment of utility prices and tariffs.

The law also ended the indexation of salaries and wages, establishing that the enterprises that were using this mechanism will adopt salary systems based on the production and productivity rates of each enterprise.

According to this law, the state will not expropriate enterprises or their shares, except for public purposes that are properly justified by a law approved by Congress. [passage omitted]

Decree No. 748, also released yesterday, provides for the reduction of penalties for those who voluntarily turn themselves in to the police, a judge, or any appropriate authority in order to end their links with terrorism.

This law will support the government's pacification policy, which promotes dialogue and national understanding, and a positive attitude toward those who took the wrong course but who want to rejoin society and the state of law.

The Law on the Professional Status of the National Peruvian Police Personnel was also released yesterday. This law establishes rights and duties per category, hierarchy, rank, and employment. [passage omitted]

Decrees Approved on Intelligence, Armed Forces

PY2111223891 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Nov 91 p 6

[Text] The government has deactivated the Secretariat of the Superior Intelligence Council and has created the National Intelligence System [Sistema de Inteligencia Nacional]. It has also restructured the National Defense System and created a Unified Command [Comando Unificado] and an Operations Command [Comando Operativo] with the intention of eradicating subversion and drug trafficking.

These measures are contained in a series of legislative decrees, which have been published in the official bulletin EL PERUANO, that outline the powers and actions of the Armed Forces.

The relations of the Political-Military Commands of the zones that have been declared emergency zones between the jurisdictional authorities have also been standardized, and it has also been established that in said zones the military and police officers will meet directly with the prosecutors who certify the situation of the detainees.

Through Legislative Decree No. 737 it is established that members of the Armed and Police Forces who suffer a permanent physical disability in the line of duty will be promoted to the next rank every 5 years.

It also states that exceptionally and through an order of the chief of state that any person who has suffered

permanent physical disabiliy can be promoted three ranks higher due to meritorious action.

The same procedure will be followed to grant the pension to the closest relative of personnel who die as a consequence of acts of terrorism or drug trafficking.

The government has also ordered that the intervention of the Armed Forces outside of the zones declared to be in a state of emergency can be carried out if there is a very serious internal disorder or in the face of imminent internal disorder.

The Unified Military Command will coordinate the planning, execution, and control of the operations of the National Police.

The executive has also approved the legal rules that will allow the reorganization of the National Defense System by creating a unified command and an operational command which will outline logistical and strategic capabilities in order to efficiently apply the strategies and policies to be adopted to eradicate terrorist subversion and drug trafficking.

Thus, there is the hope that the task of pacification can be carried out and in turn guarantee the enforcement of human rights and the democratic system.

The new structure of the National Defense System will allow it to become an efficient and dynamic organization capable of successfully taking on the task of national pacification, of participating in national development, and of guaranteeing the independence, sovereignty, and integrity of the republic.

The National Defense System will be presided over by the president and will be made up of the Unified Pacification Command, the National Defense Council, the National Intelligence System, Defense Ministry, National Civil Defense System, National Defense Secretariat, and the ministries and public organizations and their respective national defense offices.

The government has deactivated the Secretariat of the Superior Intelligence Council and has created the National Intelligence System (SINA), which as of now will implement intelligence activities that will contribute to the nation's security.

The legal document establishes that intelligence is produced for the president in his role as president of the National Defense Council.

Legislative Decree No. 746 establishes that until the National Intelligence Service has the necessary personnel it will receive the support of qualified personnel of the Armed Forces, National Police, and public sector organizations.

The government has also made official the intervention of the Armed Forces in the universities located in the zones that have been declared in emergency, when it modified the fifth article of Law No. 24150, and has also reaffirmed that the Political-Military Command has authority over members of the National Police.

The legal document indicates that the Political-Military Command of the zone will have under its authority the members of the National Police serving in emergency zones.

It also indicates that the instructions and orders pertaining to the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking that are issued by the Political-Military Command will be obeyed.

It also authorizes access to universities in order to reestablish the principle of authority and to prevent the activities of terrorist groups.

The document also authorizes the Political-Military Command to participate in the task of civic action so that the universities will once again have prestige.

In view of the special circumstances that the country is experiencing due to the actions of subversive terrorism and drug trafficking, the executive branch has decided to implement an overall strategy to eradicate these scourges. In order to do so, it has pointed out the need to adapt the military situation of the officers of the Armed Forces.

Commission Absolves Alan Garcia in BCCI Case

PY2111202291 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 13 Nov 91 p A4

[Excerpt] The commission in charge of investigating the use of BCR [Central Reserve Bank] resources, headed by deputy (Socialist Left) Manuel Dammert Egoaguirre, in a decision which even took its members by surprise, freed former President Alan Garcia of any responsibility in the case regarding the deposit of funds in the BCCI [International Bank of Credit and Commerce]. Nevertheless, the commission requested that the investigation carried out by a group of attorneys, among them Senator Felipe Osterling Parodi, be included in the case file.

As soon as the text of the decision, signed by four of the seven commission members, was disclosed, (Mariateguiest Unified Party) Deputy Ricardo Letts Colmenares, who is a member of the commission that carried out the investigation—publicly—complained about "the clear determination to distort and divert former President Garcia's" responsibility, adding that the report is biased and does not reflect the request made to the commission to list the crimes and the people responsible for them. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Democratic Party Rejects Coup Possibility

PA2211002391 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Considering such assertions harmful to the state of law and order, the Democratic Action [AD] party

rejected the statements made by several Venezuelan officials and intellectuals who said that a coup may take place in the country. During a very long AD meeting, the top leaders of the government party decided to warn the country about these types of allegations that they feel are dangerous and disturbing rather than helpful.

[Begin AD Parliamentary Deputy Chief Luis Emilio Rondon recording] AD's National Executive Commission denounces the undemocratic attitude assumed by several people who spoke in favor of a coup d'etat in the past days. It condemns the motives of those who attempt to enhance their positions by promoting opinions that are contrary to the respect owed to the country's institutional system because they are unable to reach power with the support of the people. [end recording]

The AD leaders studied a parliamentary report and decided to position themselves in favor of a uninominal electoral system for the upcoming elections for governors, mayors, and municipal officials. At the meeting, party officials also denounced a secret pact between the Social Christian Party and the Movement Toward Socialism.

Student Disorders Face Possible Retaliation

PA2111195791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0710 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Report by Aurelio Rizos]

[Text] Caracas, 21 Nov (EFE)—Student disorders, resulting in eight deaths, have forced the Venezuelan Government to consider suspending classes and adopting special measures for a return to normalcy.

The incidents, occurring since classes began in September, have increased this week coinciding with the absence of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who is currently touring Brazil.

The protests are aimed at Perez' economic program, which led to an increase in mass transportation fares and the price of staples. The students are also protesting the scarcity of resources allocated for schools.

Perez, who ruled the country from 1974 to 1979, was sworn in as president for the second time in February 1989. At that time, he implemented a severe adjustment plan promoted by the IMF and the World Bank, which extended extreme poverty to 43.35 percent of the population.

Government measures aimed at easing the difficult situation, such as food and transportation coupons, are not enough to compensate for the decline in purchasing power suffered by 79.08 percent of the country, according to a report from the Foundation Research Center on the Growth and Development of the Venezuelan Population [Fundacion Centro de Estudios sobre Crecimiento y Desarrollo de la Poblacion Venezolana] (Fundacredesa).

Official figures indicate that a child starves to death in Venezuela every day; malnutrition levels have reached segments of the population that never suffered from it before; and diseases, such as malaria, which was eradicated decades ago, are now reappearing.

In addition, Health Ministry officials are issuing warnings about the imminent arrival of cholera; just when 12,000 doctors from public hospitals are participating in an indefinite strike to protest the noncompliance of their work contracts.

The protests have also coincided with charges, such as the one made by intellectual Arturo Uslar Pietri, who said the deterioration of the Venezuelan executive, legislative, and judicial branches has reached such levels that the possibility of a coup d'etat should not be ruled out.

Uslar and another group of intellectuals, known as the "notables," recently asked for the resignation of all Supreme Court magistrates as a first step leading to the renewal and the purging of the judicial branch.

In addition, conflict exists between a press media group critical of President Perez and what it calls his "intimate entourage" and the government. The conflict was discussed during the latest meeting of the Inter-American Press Society held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

This press media group agrees with the rest of the media in criticizing the neoliberal economic policies of the government. It also criticizes the influence and the power accumulated by people linked to the president, who do not belong to the public sector or who are members of nongovernment organizations.

The accusations made about the president also include his activities abroad. He is accused of traveling too much; of spending too much time trying to promote and enhance his international image as a leader of a developing country; and of disregarding internal problems.

Perez proposed in Brazil this week changing the Venezuelan Constitution to create the post of prime minister, who would be in charge of domestic policies and would give the president more time for international affairs.

Perez, who in his previous administration was characterized by his decision to nationalize the iron and oil industries, launched the "Great Turn" slogan this term and promoted the privatization of state enterprises in the areas of agriculture, aviation, banks, telephone, and shipyards, among others.

In addition, Venezuelans remember and fear a repeat of the mass uprisings on 28 February 1989, known as "El Caracazo," which left hundreds of people dead and millions in property damage.

Guyana

Opposition Parties Favor 'Clean Voters List'

FL2111225391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2156 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 21, CANA—The three major opposition political parties in Guyana have welcomed the announcement of the elections commission to produce a clean voters list, which parties say effectively postpones elections billed for December 16. Rudy Collins, elections commission chairman, told the nation Wednesday night that he cannot produce a clean list certified with public vertification in time for the polls and recommended to President Desmond Hoyte that the list not be used.

The Working People's Alliance (WPA) said that the announcement was not "unexpected." The main opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) congratulated Collins for the "timely announcement" while the Democratic Labour Movement described it as a "battle won" for the people of Guyana.

"The scene is set and the basis is laid (for the postponement)," Rupert Roopnarine, WPA deputy leader told CANA. "The president must now take his decision and we can expect it within 24 hours.

"The WPA is relieved," he said. "We are relieved because it means that we have managed to get rid of a December election that would have satisfied no one."

The WPA is proposing five months to clean up the entire elections machinery and tidying up the list, but PPP leader Dr. Cheddi Jagan criticised a May election as playing right into the hands of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

"This is not correct... It is a departure from the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) position and it is only playing into the hands of the PNC which wants to defer the elections for another year," Jagan, minority leader, told CANA Thursday. The PCD is a grouping of opposition parties.

"We (the PPP) are totally against it and I am sure that everybody in this country will be against that," he said.

He congratulated Collins for announcing that the list would not be ready in time for the December elections and also for stressing the need to have elections based on a clean and accurate list. Jagan, a 73-year-old former premier here, told CANA that President Hoyte should now recall Parliament, declare a state of emergency, and fix a date for elections no later than April, 1992.

Paul Tennassee, leader of the DLM [Democratic Labor Movement], said that the postponing of the elections is a battle won for Guyanese in the struggle for free and fair elections.

"It is a battle won for the people of Guyana in the struggle towards free and fair elections, but the war is still on," the DLM leader told CANA.

Tennassee said that he hoped President Hoyte will "clearly state" that he will implement the recommendations of the Carter Center which is to monitor the election and will adopt a "hands off" approach to the elections commission and its chairman. The centre had threatened not to monitor or endorse the polls if clean lists could not be produced and suggested the elections be held early next year.